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WEEKEND JANCIS ROBINSON
THE ULTIMATE WINE-TASTING



Protests force BBC to shelve changes

By Raymond Snoddy and Carol Midgley

THE BBC backed down yesterday over proposed changes to television and radio news after a wave of protest from key presenters and editors. Sir Christopher Bland, Chairman of the BBC Board of Governors, intervened to suspend the moves as Tony Hall, the BBC's chief executive of news, admitted that neither the governors nor John Birt, the Director-General, had been fully apprised of the detail of the changes before they were announced. The governors were understood to have been taken aback by them.



Ford: signed letter attacking proposals

Mr Birt indicated that he was unwilling to get involved in a dispute with presenters such as John Humphrys and

"not detract from the quality, programme identity and editorial values of BBC News". Many staff said they regarded this as a face-saving exercise for the top management and that the reforms would be quietly dropped. Mr Hall said he would not resign.

The stay of execution was agreed at a heated meeting yesterday morning between Sir Christopher, Mr Birt and Mr Hall, who devised the changes. Mr Birt said: "We have got to pause and explain to people what Tony Hall and his colleagues have in mind." He agreed that he did not know about the detailed proposals announced to BBC journalists this week, "nor would I want to".

His job was to set up the strategy, not get involved in detailed implementation; but the pause, Mr Birt acknowledged, was "a recognition that the arrangements have been very controversial with some people I greatly value, presenters and editors. I accept they are not happy and there is a need to pause and discuss the proposals we have put forward. There have been masses of misunderstandings."

Yesterday staff were celebrating, but one producer said that the pressure should be kept up. "We have only won a battle so far, not the war," he said. "But they have backed down in the face of unanimous staff hostility. Tony Hall and his friends have egg of their faces."

Sir Christopher said that he believed the changes were designed to get the best out of the resources devoted to BBC news and current affairs, but added: "We need to take more time to consider certain elements of the changes, to explain them further and to make absolutely certain that they will enhance, and not detract from, the quality, programme identity, and editorial values of BBC News."

Earlier, Mr Hall defended the proposals, saying that the revamp would not result in any lowering of quality in the corporation's news output, as the protesters feared, but would improve effectiveness. Leading presenters, including Anna Ford, Mr Humphrys, Mr Naughtie and Sue McGregor, have signed a letter protesting at the changes, which Jeremy Paxman, the Newsnight presenter, said would reduce news production to a "sausage factory". The editors of Today, The World at One and Newsnight effectively put their jobs on the line by refusing to apply for the new "super-editor" posts being set up.



Happy landing: The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, meets children dressed as monks at Ash, Kent, yesterday as he re-enacted the arrival of St Augustine in 597

A low-key welcome on the hillside

By Stephen Farrell

THE ISOLATED former Benedictine monastery doubling as Wales's smallest polling station yesterday reported a low turnout in the devolution referendum.

Stanley Knill, 64, opens his home to 22 electors at Capel-yffin, in the Black Mountains near Hay-on-Wye but reported a lower level of interest than in other elections during his 12 years there.

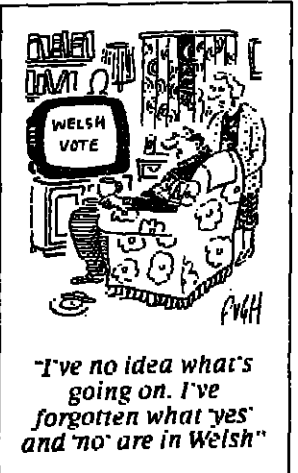
"I haven't seen the usual faces. We normally get 70 to 80 per cent turnout here but we have had only ten people," he said last night.

He freely admits to voting in favour of devolution but said few were interested in the issue.

"There's been very little talk about it here. I was the first to vote and the next lot came up on horseback. I don't expect to see the others."

But both "yes" and "no" camps in Cardiff were last night predicting a higher turnout than expected thanks to the September sunshine.

Photograph, page 22



Fan club, page 2

British exodus after Egypt terror attack

By Harvey Elliott
TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of British tourists were evacuated last night from Cairo as the city was unofficially declared a no-go area for foreign holidaymakers after suspected Muslim militants attacked a tourist bus, killing ten people.

Egyptian security sources said all who died were inside the bus parked near the Egyptian Museum at Tahrir Square, home of the world's greatest collection of Pharaonic artefacts, including the 3,300-year-old golden treasures of Tutankhamun.

Police said that 19 other Egyptians and tourists were wounded in the gun

and bomb attack, which gutted the tourist bus. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but security sources said police arrested three suspected militants and were hunting for two more. "The whole place was in panic," said Stephen Thomas, a British tourist who was in the museum with his wife and two children.

Package tour groups visiting the Egyptian capital were being contacted by most of the leading companies and taken by bus to their Nile cruise ships or Luxor. Cairo is not a main destination for British package holidaymakers, most of whom take cruises along the Nile or stay in Luxor, making occasional day trips to Cairo's muse-

ums. But, with an opera festival starting next week, hotels in Luxor and Cairo are full, though the peak season does not begin until October.

Thomson said that it would "evacuate" nearly 100 clients from Cairo and had temporarily cancelled cruise tours to the city from Cyprus and the Red Sea. Thomas Cook said it had almost 200 clients in Egypt and British Airways Holidays more than 100.

About 320,000 Britons visit Egypt each year, mainly in the winter season. The country has been proving increasingly popular, with a big growth in Nile cruises. In 1992, 15,000 British holidaymakers took a cruise but by last year this had jumped to 70,000. With

thousands of tourists due to fly to Egypt in the next few weeks, tour operators were last night ringing each of them to ask if they wished to continue, take another holiday or cancel.

"We are keeping in close touch with the Foreign Office and will then be offering customers the option of cancelling if they wish," said Alan Flook, chairman of the Federation of Tour Operators. "We are certainly not going to be back in Cairo tomorrow."

The Association of British Tour Operators said travel agents were liaising with the Foreign Office.

Cairo slaughter, page 13
Leading article, page 19

Churchill's 'shabby' grave is rescued

By Damian Whitworth

THE humble grave of Sir Winston Churchill and the quiet English churchyard where he is buried are to receive a £350,000 refurbishment after more than three decades of tourists have left the spot looking "shabby and unloved."

Winston Churchill, the former MP and grandson of Britain's wartime leader, is using some of the £12.5 million he received from the sale of the Churchill archive to lead a family rescue of the churchyard at Bladon, Oxfordshire. A section of the churchyard, near the Blenheim estate where Sir Winston was born, will be closed for six months.

Sir Winston, who died in 1965, had specified that he wanted to be buried in the place that he had known from childhood. He shares a grave with Lady Churchill who died in 1977 and they lie beneath an inconspicuous slab of Portland stone.

It is estimated that around 350,000 tourists visit the site

every year, or one pilgrim for every pound that will be spent.

Mr Churchill said: "The ground slopes and there is subsidence. Slowly, but perceptibly, the graves are sliding down the hill. There are particular problems when two or three busloads arrive simultaneously. There is just this very narrow path so they spill off and trample over the graves. When the weather is wet the whole area looks shabby and unloved."

The architect William Bertram said that his design had intended to provide access while preserving the traditional churchyard. A concrete path will be torn up and a wider walkway, of York stone, will run around the perimeter. A chain fence will discourage visitors from crossing the graves and benches will be provided.

Sir Winston's tombstone will be replaced and set on a raised step.

Getting the picture, page 5

Ink thrown at Hindley picture

Ink and eggs were hurled at the controversial portrait of Myra Hindley at the Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, yesterday by two men, apparently acting independently of each other.

One of them smuggled in the ink in two 35mm film canisters. The damage was serious enough for the painting to be withdrawn and it is not expected to be back on show for several days.

Both men, one an artist, were arrested for causing criminal damage. Page 9

Pollution linked to macho ads

The motor industry was attacked over links between pollution and the macho culture of high-performance cars. The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution said technology could deliver cars 40 per cent more fuel efficient and less damaging to the environment.

A commission report decried the advertising of cars which put engine size, luxury and acceleration over protecting public health. Page 8

Curtains for the council chamber ogles

By Daniel McGroarty

SO MANY male members of a Yorkshire council were distracted during meetings by the legs of their female colleagues that a councillor insisted that desks should be fitted with "modesty" curtains.

East Riding council has spent £645 on the cover-up after Dave Ireland, a Liberal Democrat, complained that many of his colleagues spent their time ogling the legs of women rather than council business.

"I think it's extremely distracting for male councillors with reasonable lev-

els of testosterone to sit there, especially if you have legs like one or two of the councillors do," Mr Ireland said. "Men are men but we have to concentrate on the business. I brought the matter up because the female members shouldn't have to go to a meeting and worry about the way they are sitting."

His party leader, Bob Tress, said: "I'm sure that Councillor Ireland, who is a very decent and gallant man, is not suggesting that he is surrounded by dirty old men."

Yesterday 15 councillors were sitting around the offending tables in the

Humber Room for a planning committee. Each table had beige curtains reaching to the floor.

Mr Tress said: "I can't understand the fuss because unless you are fastening your shoelace you cannot see much beyond a lady's knee," adding that he had never put this to the test.

One woman official said: "There are 21 women on a council of 67 and the average age is 48 so they are hardly the Spice Girls driving these foolish old men to distraction."

Liberal Democrat Colleen Gill, known for her daring choice of mini

skirts, thought someone was pulling her leg when told about the modesty curtains. "I like to show my legs off and distract other councillors from political arguments. I think that if you have got a good figure you should do it. I am proud of my legs and do not want them covered up."

The Tory Group were more concerned about the cost. Professor Arthur Pollard, the Conservative group secretary said: "Obviously one sees the legs, but if you are attending to council business you look across at their faces, not their legs, whether they are men or women."

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TV series 'proves IRA link with Sinn Fein'

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A BBC documentary is likely to fuel an increasingly vitriolic feud between Ulster unionism's two main parties today by claiming to establish beyond doubt that Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, and Martin McGuinness were key members of the IRA.

Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party is likely to use the documentary to redouble its condemnation of the Ulster Unionist Party's decision this week to engage Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness, Sinn Fein's main negotiator, at the Stormont multiparty talks.

The programme is also likely to undermine Mr Adams's attempts to explain away the IRA's disavowal of the Mitchell principles of democracy and non-violence last week by claiming that Sinn Fein and the IRA are separate organisations. A plenary session of the talks next Tuesday is to consider a formal UUP demand for Sinn Fein's expulsion because that disavowal came just two days after Mr Adams had committed his party to those principles.

The BBC is this morning offering a media preview of the first programme in a four-part series entitled *The Provos: The IRA and Sinn Fein*, to be broadcast nationwide on BBC1 beginning next Tuesday. The programme is understood to include interviews

with former IRA terrorists who confirm that Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness, now MPs, were key members of the IRA in the 1970s and 1980s.

The presenter, Peter Taylor, a veteran chronicler of the Troubles, is believed to have found an interview in which a youthful Mr McGuinness explains his role in the "defence" of the Catholic Bogside during the early riots in Londonderry.

The programme will also disclose details of secret communications between past governments and Sinn Fein. The feud between the UUP, and the DUP which is boycotting the talks, has escalated since David Trimble led his party back to Stormont. Mr Paisley and his deputy, Peter Robinson, have accused Mr Trimble of joining terrorists in one-sided negotiations designed to destroy the Union.

Mr Trimble and other UUP MPs have accused the DUP of running away from Sinn Fein, saying: "Those that walk out leave the Union undefended." Some officials believe that the DUP will eventually find a way to re-enter the talks process, if only because staying out is a big gamble. If the talks collapse and the IRA returns to violence the DUP will be vindicated and the UUP discredited. However, if they succeed, the DUP will be marginalised.



Adams and McGuinness: accused in documentary



Tony Hall, chief executive of BBC News. It was rumoured that he offered to cut twice as much as asked for

BBC changes led by 'head boy' who dances to John Birt's tune

By CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

MAN IN THE NEWS

TONY HALL, the 'bespectacled chief executive of BBC News, is described by colleagues as "a fully paid-up member of the John Birt fan club". Nicknamed "Head Boy" because of his academic looks and Oxford education, he has spent virtually his whole working life with the BBC, starting as a trainee in the Belfast newsroom in the 1970s.

He is one of the most powerful men in the corporation, in overall charge of the world's biggest news organisation employing 2,000 journalists, 42 foreign bureaux

and 12 channels across television, radio and new media. His interest in economic organisation was founded at Keble College, Oxford, where he went on to write two books — on the history of the miners and on nuclear power — and colleagues say he has a formidable intellect and determination.

However, feeling against him has grown with a rumour that when Mr Birt, the Director General, asked for 15 per cent cuts in news, Mr Hall offered him 30 per cent to Mr Birt's delight. It was Mr Hall, 46, who instructed

senior management how to implement the changes which have caused mutiny among the staff. Even he, who was responsible for merging the news and current affairs departments of television, radio and foreign in 1987, was yesterday said to be taken aback by the ferocity of the resistance.

Richard Clemmow, the BBC's mild-mannered head of news programmes, was reportedly "white with shock" when staff met the proposals with a volley of protest on Wednesday. Staff say they recognised

the hand of McKinsey, the management consultancy which has a £10 million contract with the BBC to formulate its new strategies, in the "super editor" structure. BBC staff refer to McKinsey operatives as The Firm.

"They are John Birt's personal police force," one said. "They suggest things in theory but do not get involved in the messy implementation. But John Birt swears by them and if an executive wants to get his measures through he will hire McKinsey to do it. They are clinical, methodical strategists."

Leading article, page 19

Smith warns BBC of public remit

By RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

PUBLIC-SERVICE broadcasters have to be more accountable to the public and continue to produce distinctive programmes if they want to thrive, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport said yesterday.

The warning from Chris Smith was given at the biennial Royal Television Society convention at Cambridge on the day that the BBC backed down on plans to restructure its news organisation without any obvious public consultation. "If public-service broadcasters are to continue to thrive, they must be seen to adhere to their public-service remit and to demonstrate their accountability to the public and to democratic bodies," Mr Smith said.

He welcomed recent BBC proposals on accountability but added: "I hope that further progress can be made." He also made it clear that he intended to set out what was expected of Channel 4. He proposed "recasting the Channel 4 remit positively, rather than simply defining it — as at present — as what Channel 3 is not."

In the digital age of multi-channel television, public-service broadcasters would be as important as ever. "However, it needs to be something distinctive and special with corresponding distinctive regulatory arrangements," Mr Smith said. In addition, it was clear that the arrangements for regulating media competition needed to be reconsidered as part of an overall re-examination.

Mr Smith argued that he wanted digital television to succeed on all delivery platforms to ensure universal access to current public-service channels but added: "I want that access as soon as possible... so as to end the current wasteful use of valuable radio spectrum for analogue terrestrial broadcasting."

Leading article, page 19

NEWS IN BRIEF



Professor Harris

University offers to be based on results

Students will be offered degree places on the basis of A-level results, rather than often inaccurate predictions by schools, as part of a new deal promised by vice-chancellors yesterday to justify the introduction of tuition fees.

The post-qualifications applications system was one of a number of developments, agreed at the vice-chancellors' annual conference, in response to Sir Ron Dearing's report on higher education.

Professor Martin Harris, chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, appealed to the Government to keep its side of the fees bargain by ensuring that the money raised went to higher education.

Lottery learners

Lottery grants of £100 million were announced for learning and training projects. Recipients include a community group that provides classes for expelled pupils, a network of after-school clubs, an educational centre for migrants and refugees, and a club that provides intensive tutoring for children who have difficulty reading.

Murder charge

A 46-year-old man was last night charged with the murder of Rachel Barradough, 18, who was found dead with multiple stab wounds on wasteland in Wakefield. Rachel went missing after leaving her home in Bradford on September 5 to meet friends. The man is due to appear before Wakefield magistrates today.

Care inquiry

Merseyside Police are investigating reports that a care worker with a history of mental health problems had jobs in at least three homes where young, disabled people died unexpectedly. The National Register for Carers reported the man after becoming suspicious about his movements from one home to another.

Ringing justice

Midge Mather, 65, was given a conditional discharge at Chippingham magistrates' court yesterday after being found guilty of causing criminal damage by cutting the bell ropes in her local church in Compton Bassett, Wiltshire. She said the church had ignored her frequent complaints about the noise of bell-ringing.

Smear apology

Kent and Canterbury Hospital, which incorrectly gave a Chris Gough the all clear after a smear test, wrote recalling her for further checks 15 months after she died of cervical cancer. The hospital has apologised to her husband Glyn for any distress caused, an inquiry into the blunder, which involved 700 tests, heard.

Butler seeks to stem press officers' unease

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

SIR Robin Butler is seeking to raise the morale of the Government's information officers after suggestions from ministers that the Civil Service press machine compares unfavourably with the slick operation provided by Labour spin doctors.

The Cabinet Secretary has set up a committee to look into the work of the Government Information Service and asked Alastair Campbell, the Downing Street Press Secretary, to take part. Last week the *Times* reported that there was unease in the ranks of Whitehall Press Officers after four senior information officers were moved from their posts and others believed they were threatened. The working party will be chaired by Robin Mountfield, Permanent Secretary at the Office of Public Service inside the Cabinet Office.

In a letter to all Permanent Secretaries, Sir Robin says that he has asked the group to find out what ministers want from their information divisions "and how we can ensure that it is provided". Sir Robin

also raises the possibility of further staff moves and has asked mandarins to discuss the position with ministers.

Sir Robin's letter to colleagues accepts that there are still teething troubles between ministers and officials, but explains: "We are still in a transitional period, during which the new Government and the Civil Service are learning about each other. Misunderstandings and miscommunication are the bane of such times."

Mike Grannat, head of the Government Information Service, has circulated a morale-boosting letter to all government press officers setting out areas for change but stating unequivocally: "We are not facing a takeover by political advisers."

The needs to provide a different public relations service for the Government will be the main topic at a conference for senior press officers in York at the end of the month. Mr Grannat makes clear, however, that ministers have no intention of criticising the Information Service and that

Tony Blair updated guidelines for ministers on their conduct in office to ensure they knew the proprieties.

Complaints or unhappiness from ministers have been more to do with personality clashes, or a belief that the government PR machine could be sharper. Mr Grannat has discussed the low morale in the GIs with Sir Robin and Peter Mandelson, the minister charged with government presentation. He told colleagues in his letter that his first priority was for their welfare and morale and praised them for doing a difficult job "with skill, dedication and loyalty".

Air Grannat reveals that he has told ministers that some tactics deployed by the Labour Party spin doctors would not be used by civil servants. "When pressed, I made it clear that I do not consider it is the job of civil servants to chase broadcasters about minute twists and turns of coverage, or to nag them over how many seconds each protagonist enjoys on air. That has more to do with party political emphasis than governmental work."

I was victim, says suspended MP

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

TOMMY GRAHAM, the suspended Labour MP named in the suicide note of Gordon McMaster, defied party instructions and broke his long silence yesterday to claim that he was the victim of a smear campaign. Mr Graham, who was suspended by the party last month pending investigations into Mr McMaster's death, denied spreading rumours about the late Paisley South MP and instead accused unnamed politicians of attempting to turn Mr McMaster against him.

Ignoring party instructions to keep quiet until the inquiry into sleaze in Paisley was completed, Mr Graham insisted that he had had a "fabulous relationship" with Mr McMaster. He backed it up by saying that they had become "pals" as boys and only last

year had enjoyed "a great night out" together at a Rangers football match.

He said the past eight weeks had been "hell" for himself, his wife and two sons and they all felt deeply sorry for Mr McMaster's family.

His remarks contrasted sharply with statements made in early August, just weeks after the suicide, in which he claimed that Mr McMaster was "ill with the booze" and said that the former MP had once confronted him and accused him of spreading rumours that he was "a profligate".

The remarks were quickly dismissed yesterday as a "bleeding heart story" by sources close to Mr McMaster, who was found dead in his car in July. "He wants people to feel sorry for him. Frankly, that does not cut much ice."



Graham defied party instructions on silence

hospitality box at Ibrox.

"A number of MPs were invited to watch the game. Gordon was not there with Tommy Graham, in the way Tommy Graham wants people to think. He was there with a number of MPs."

In his interview yesterday in *The Scotsman*, Mr Graham also claimed that he had contacted the party's Waltham Road headquarters three weeks before the MPs' suicide to complain about the selection procedure in his own Renfrewshire West constituency, which together with both Paisley seats is currently under investigation by the party.

Yesterday a Labour spokesman described Mr Graham's outburst as "unhelpful". He added: "It was made clear to him that it would be sensible not to speak to the press while the inquiry is going on."

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GP helped Lady Warnock's husband die

Medical ethics adviser reveals how she turned for help to doctor who backs euthanasia. Joanna Bale reports

BARONESS WARNOCK, a member of the Archbishop of Canterbury's advisory group on medical ethics, revealed yesterday how her husband was helped to die by a doctor who advocates euthanasia for terminally ill patients.

In a show of support for Dr Nick Maurice, a Wiltshire GP who created controversy last week by admitting that he practises euthanasia on terminally ill patients, Lady Warnock revealed how her husband's life was deliberately brought to a peaceful and dignified end 18 months ago.

Although Dr Maurice has attracted criticism, he is not said to be breaking the law and is not being investigated by the police or any medical authorities.

Lady Warnock, whose elderly husband Sir Geoffrey

Warnock, a former Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University, died of a rare lung disease, said: "Dr Nick treated my husband when he was dying of a lung condition that was incurable and extremely painful. There were no arguments used. Dr Nick was just so deeply involved. We just trusted one another."

She and their five adult children knew what the doctor was going to do, she said. "We all knew my husband was going to die and Nick told me he was going to make him better. When he said that we all knew what this meant — end his suffering and end his life."

"Nick changed the medication and probably gave him more morphine, thus ending his life two weeks before he would have died. During the

last years he lived a horrible life. He was not in agony but he could not breathe properly and was always in fear of suffocating."

"Nick and I never had a conversation about my husband's wishes, but Geoffrey did say to him he wanted it all to end. Nick's intentions were to make his last days altogether more comfortable by giving him more morphine. It was what my husband wanted."

"The sad thing was there was nothing wrong with my husband's mind while he went through this. He would lie there but know exactly what was wrong."

"Geoffrey died with dignity and if he had not had his medication changed he would probably have only lived for another fortnight."

Lady Warnock said her



Lady Warnock: "It was what my husband wanted" Dr Nick Maurice: "Every other GP is doing it"

views had been strengthened by talking to doctors while serving on the recent House of Lords select committee on euthanasia. "I talked to lots of doctors who said they gave more drugs to help end their patients' suffering. It's something that doesn't really need

to be explicitly talked about. "I don't feel the law should be changed because it would be so hard to define in legislation how it should be carried out. Doctors already do this themselves and it works well."

Dr Maurice, who has been

the Warnock's GP for six years, caused the controversy last week when an article he wrote condoning euthanasia in his practice newsletter was picked up by national newspapers. He confessed to having induced a "quiet and easy death" for two patients in the previous three months for which their relatives had been "grateful".

He also invited his patients to fill in living wills, known as Advanced Directives, in which they can specify that if they were to become terminally ill, painkillers should be used if necessary, even though they may shorten life. He also argued that patients would suffer if laws were introduced governing euthanasia.

Lady Warnock, a former fellow and tutor in philosophy at Oxford University, wrote a personal letter of support to Dr Maurice. She went on: "I absolutely agree with what both Dr Nick is doing and

what he has said about not changing the law. It was the conclusion of a House of Lords select committee on euthanasia."

Dr Maurice said yesterday that he had not received any complaints from his patients about the availability of living wills at his busy surgery in Marlborough where seven other doctors practise. He said: "We introduced them six months ago because people have increasingly begun to ask for them. Each doctor in the practice has them to give to patients."

Dr Maurice went on: "I am doing what every other GP in the country is doing but because I was prepared to raise my head above the parapet it has provoked this debate."

"I have given sufficient quantities of morphine to ensure that the physical and mental suffering of the patient, and the relative also, has been kept to a minimum.

It would be true to say that in a small proportion of patients who have been in intense and sudden pain, or who are in great distress and may require very large doses of morphine, that this may hasten their death."

"These are terminally ill patients with only a few days left. In the vast majority of cases the pain relief lengthens their lives."

A General Medical Council spokesman said: "We are not investigating this matter."

Among those to back Dr Maurice is Dr James Flood, a GP in Devizes, Wiltshire. He said a clear distinction had to be made between illegal euthanasia, when a doctor helps a patient to commit suicide, and the easing of pain among the terminally ill.

"There is a huge medical and ethical difference and there is a great danger of confusion. Dr Maurice is talking good medical sense about the care of his patients."

Victory for high-flyer who put family first

Record company executive quit life of travel to see his daughter grow up. Stephen Farrell sees him celebrate

A RECORD company executive had a stark choice between seeing more of the world and seeing his baby daughter grow up. James Whyte put his family first and quit his jet-setting job.

Yesterday an industrial tribunal in London supported his stand by awarding him £9,020 compensation for constructive dismissal, over the way that the record company EMI had suddenly increased the amount of time he was expected to spend away from home from 40 per cent to 75 per cent of his work.

Employment lawyers forecast last night that the ruling would mark a new emphasis on family values. Mr Whyte, 32, who now works as a management consultant, said: "People aren't scared to put their family first any more. All the people slightly older than me in the business had said that if they had one regret, it was that they didn't see their own children grow up." His

daughter, Emma, is 18 months. His wife, Jo, 31, who had to work while her husband was unemployed, said: "It was absolutely terrifying when he walked home and said he hadn't got a salary any more."

"It was the right thing to do. He's a devoted family man and I wouldn't have expected him to do anything different, but he did shed a few tears over losing his company BMW."

Mr Whyte, a £40,000 information technology audit executive from Battersea, South London, told the tribunal he flew to San Francisco, Tokyo, and all over Europe in his two years with EMI, which owns Virgin Records. He said that,

when he joined in 1995, he was told he would be expected to travel only 40 per cent of the time.

In March 1997, while working on EMI's complex artist royalty system in New York, he was presented with the 75 per cent requirement as a "fait accompli", he said. He refused out of "frustration and anger", and quit in April.

He said: "It was an enormous issue for me. Why would I be willing to accept the 75 per cent requirement? I had a young family."

"There had been no notice for me to raise my objections. I was required to start in New York in a week and a half's time. I wanted to protect my position. I was a little guy

up against an enormous company."

EMI said that he was advised of the change a month before, and accused him of failing to follow established grievance procedures. However, Mr Whyte insisted he had simply tried to resolve the situation as best he could and blamed the company's intransigence. He said that the company had wanted him to travel to San Francisco the day his wife was due to give birth.

The tribunal took just 15 minutes to decide that Mr Whyte had been constructively dismissed. The chairman, John Metcalf, said that "some people might regard 40 per cent travel or even more as an advantage". Nevertheless, the tribunal bench ruled: "We find it to be a fundamental term in his contract that foreign travel was up to no more than 40 per cent. The requirement of a commitment to 75 per cent was clearly a breach of that fundamental term."

The tribunal also found no business need for Mr Whyte to travel 75 per cent of the time: "Even if there had been, the reasonableness requirement would not have been met by the attitude shown and actions taken by the employer."

After the case, Mr Whyte said: "I was going to miss my lovely BMW 3-series coupe, the £300-a-year private health insurance and free CDs every month. But if I didn't do it I would never have seen my daughter starting to crawl, walk and recognise me as daddy."

"It is part of common sense and human decency. Seeing your children grow up only happens once."



James Whyte and his wife, Jo. She said: "He shed a few tears over his BMW"

Age fear led perm tycoon to take his life

By MICHAEL HORNSWELL

A MEMBER of the hairdressing dynasty that helped to develop the ladies' perm has killed himself, fearing the onset of old age and Alzheimer's disease.

Charles Kropacsky checked into an hotel near the M4 and suffocated himself on his 83rd birthday, an inquest in Devizes, Wiltshire, was told yesterday. Mr Kropacsky, whose family is of Hungarian origin, was said to have been terrified of losing his mind or becoming wheelchair bound and a burden on his family.

A detailed suicide note addressed to the coroner was left on the bedside table by Mr Kropacsky, who was in perfect health. His son William, 49, told the inquest: "He never held back the fact that he would take his own life if he thought it was the right time."

"His father had been confined to a wheelchair and his mother had Alzheimer's."

Mr Kropacsky, of Lymington, Hampshire, was responsible for several advances in hair care before retiring from London to the New Forest in the 1960s. He was said to be deeply upset by the death of his wife, Jean, 83, last year.

Mr Kropacsky had two other sons, Nicholas, 51, an airline pilot, and Christopher, 53, a civil engineer.

The modern process of permanent waving of the hair was conceived by Charles Nestle who announced a demonstration in Oxford Street, London, in the *Hairdressers' Journal* in 1906 "to withstand water, shampoo and all atmospheric influences".

In 1909 Nestle took out a patent on an electrical heater, a contribution to the invention having been made by Mr Kropacsky's father, also Charles, who went on to develop the process with others, including Eugene Suter.

Nicholas Kropacsky said: "My grandfather Charles was involved in creating the Eugene Permanent Wave in the 1930s. My own father helped him with his work and carried on when my grandfather left the business."

The Kropacsky family business, Camilatone, which made hair care products was started in 1920 and was sold off in 1952. Mr Kropacsky developed a conditioner called Vitapoint, which became popular with women after the war.

FIRMS CHECK SMALLPRINT ON TRAVEL COSTS

EXPERTS predict that the case will send company lawyers hurrying to check senior staff's contracts. Janet Gaymer, head of employment law at the solicitors Simmons & Simmons, said: "The moral for employers is to get it right at the beginning, by putting a provision in the contract that is flexible. It might be symptomatic of a new era. The Government has emphasised its desire to promote family

responsibilities, such as the right to family life in the Convention on Human Rights."

Jane Mann, employment law partner at Fox Williams, said: "The multinationals will all take notice of it. Their response will be now to be very specific about the amount of time spent travelling on business in the contract."

Tony Hughes, managing director of P&O Travel, and chairman of the Guild of Business

Travel Agents, said that businesses spent £5 billion on rail and air travel last year. Fares ranged from £50 supersaver train tickets to £6,768 Concorde return tickets to New York, or even £2,000 an hour for chartered Gulfstream jets. The most frequent travellers are senior executives, engineers, sales staff, finance and IT specialists and auditors. Some firms fly senior executives as far as Sydney for one-day stays.

How a trip to the hairdresser left woman paralysed

By IAN MURRAY



Jane Hughes: artery in neck had been stretched

A VISIT to the hairdresser turned into a near disaster for Jane Hughes. She went in to have her long hair set and washed but ended up partially paralysed and wondering if she would ever walk again.

Mrs Hughes, 44, suffered a stroke caused by her neck being stretched back while she was having her hair washed. Her "beauty parlour syndrome" ordeal two years ago is described today in the medical journal *The Lancet*.

The stylist had tipped the chair back and stretched her neck back over the sink in the normal way.

Everything seemed all right until she got up to walk home. Mrs Hughes found she had difficulty walking and was dragging her left leg. She had trouble driving back to her home in Bath, but managed it. Once home she found herself unsteady on her feet and with increasing numbness in her left hand.

The next morning she could not drink her tea properly and she decided to go to the Royal United Hospital. "I thought I had trapped a nerve and when they suggested I stay in hospital I said no because I had a child and two dogs to look after."

An appointment was made for her to see a neurologist the next day, but

that evening she fell on the way to the bathroom and found she was unable even to crawl. In the morning she could not stand and was admitted to hospital. "I was very frightened and couldn't understand what was going on," she said yesterday. "All that I had done was get my hair washed."

Dr David Bateman, who treated her for a stroke, describes the case in *The Lancet*. He was at first puzzled about what caused the stroke. Mrs Hughes had no history of illness.

Her blood pressure was normal. She was not a diabetic. She did not smoke and usually drank no more than the recommended quantity of alcohol. She had one son, who was

born normally 15 years earlier.

A scan discovered that the lining of the arteries of her neck had torn away and was blocking the passage of blood to her brain. This can happen in older people or to those with arterial disease, but Mrs Hughes fitted neither category. The only thing that he could think of was the visit to the hairdresser.

What happened was that in pulling back her neck to wash the hair, the stylist had inadvertently stretched the artery in the neck causing a tear in the lining, which led to blood clots forming. This had caused the stroke.

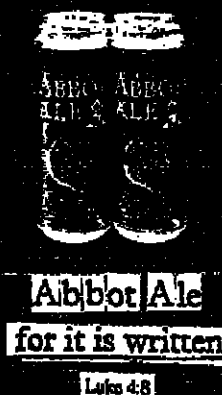
"Washing hair with the neck extended or the chair tilted backwards is a common practice because the position avoids soap getting into the eyes," Dr Bateman writes. "This practice is not without risk and hairdressers should be instructed not to overextend the neck and should use the cushion usually provided."

Two years later, treatment with anticoagulants and neuro-physiotherapy has almost cured Mrs Hughes, although her left hand is still very weak. She now keeps her hair short and always has it washed leaning forward over the sink.

The hairdressing training board said: "As part of the course for an NVQ we teach that the head and neck must be protected at all times."

for them hath the LORD chosen to carry

Chronicles 15:2



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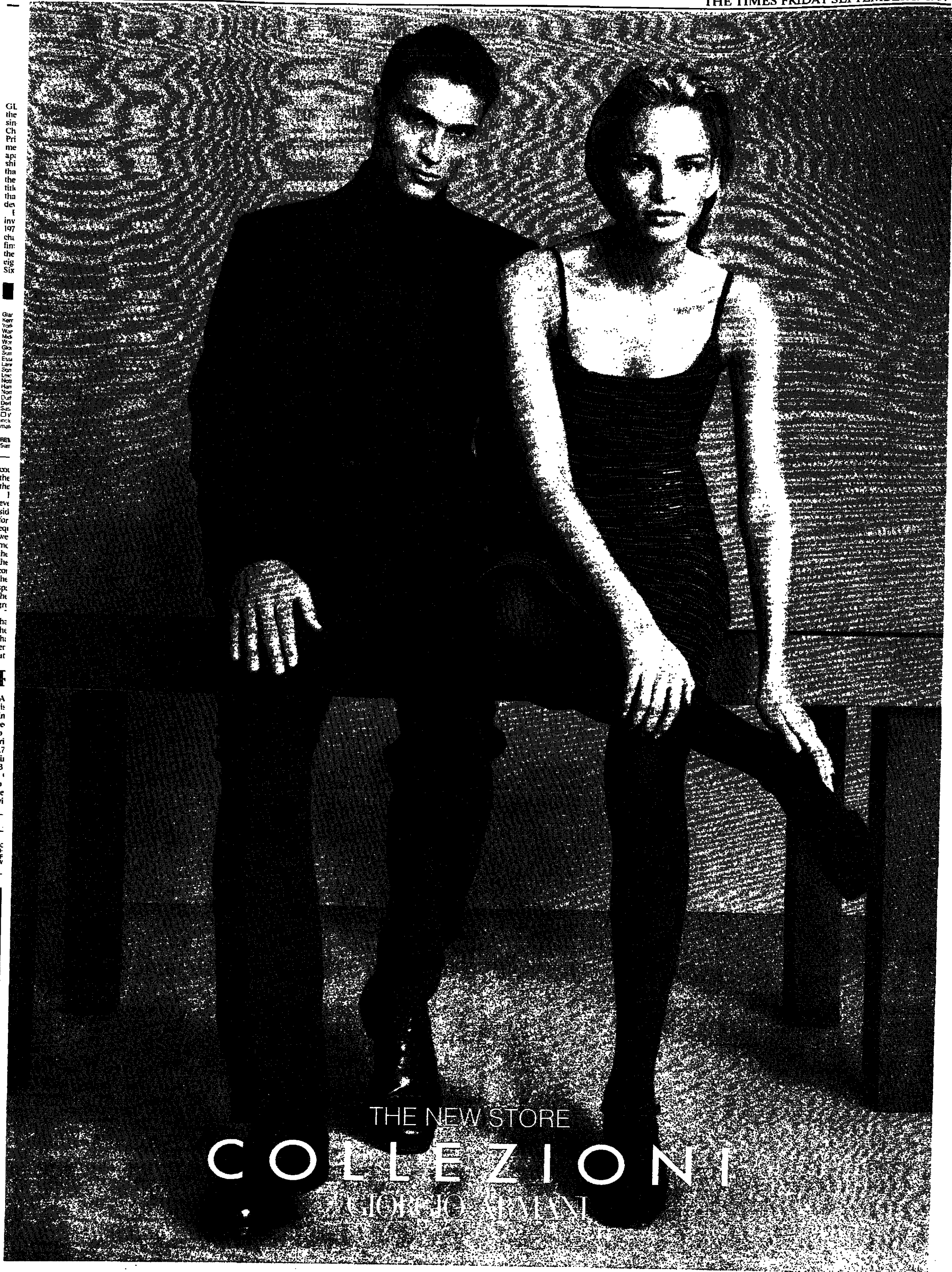
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of wine's
holy relics

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Christie's toasts the sale of wine's holy relics

By Philip Delves
Broughton

WITH a slurp and a wet, cellar cough, the auction of the greatest private wine collection to come to the market began at Christie's in London yesterday.

The 18,999 bottles of grand cru champagnes, clarets, white wines, ports, pudding wines and cognacs are being sold by an anonymous owner over four sessions ending today.

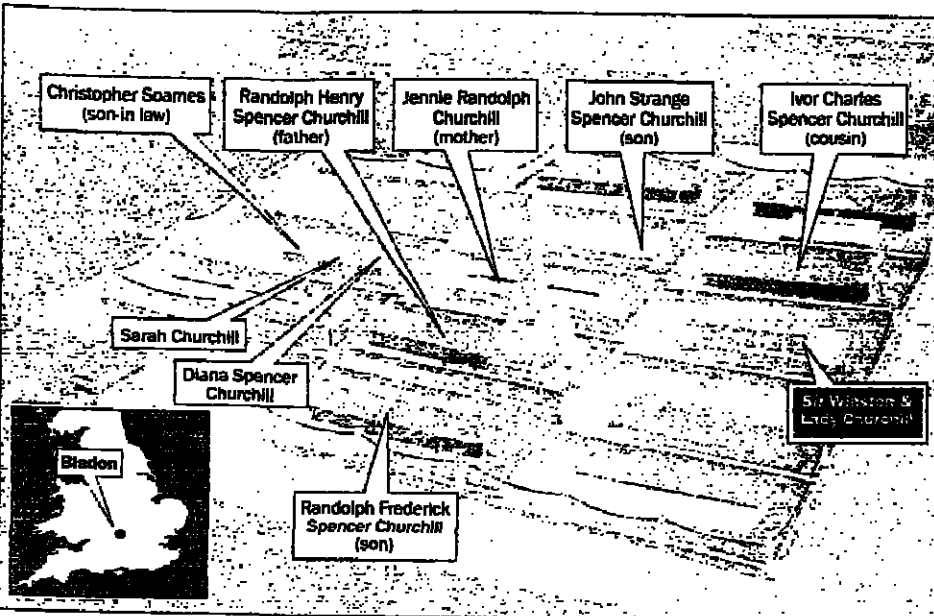
Some of the highlights are on display: Chateau d'Yquem wrapped in sugary tissue paper and extremely rare 12-bottle cases of Petrus arranged like holy relics.

First for sale, however, were the champagnes. The Japanese in the crowd and on the telephones splashed out. Six bottles of Louis Roederer Cristal, vintage 1966, went for £1,300, a case of Dom Perignon Rosé, 1969, for £3,600. Pink champagne is said to be a fine accompaniment to sushi.

As the time came for the red Bordeaux 1899-1990, a different sort of nose took over the saloon. Men with long, sloping, dual foreheads loped in, armed with the full mandate of the wine committees of gentlemen's clubs.

As the claret sale started to swing, the prices began whooshing up: £19,000 for an imperial of Mouton-Rothschild 1929, £20,000 for a case of Latour 1937, £62,000 for an imperial of Cheval Blanc 1947.

In two minutes, a telephone buyer had spent £204,000 on claret. One hopes he takes longer to drink it, unless of course he has some brilliantly vulgar drinking game in mind.



The new layout of the family graves, as proposed by the Churchill Grave Trust

Tourists fail to get the picture at Churchill grave

Alan Hamilton reports on why visitors feel the £350,000 refurbishment of Sir Winston's grave is so badly needed

FOR Harry Templeton from San Jose, California, his first sight of Sir Winston Churchill's grave yesterday was something of a disappointment. His camcorder could not make out the faded names engraved on the simple tomb at Bladon, Oxfordshire.

The £350,000 refurbishment which begins next month to restore a site left shabby and apparently unloved by three decades of tourists beating a path to the churchyard gate could not come a moment too soon for visitors.

On the last stop of a 23-day tour of Britain and Ireland, Mr Templeton had expected something a little grander than a plain horizontal slab of Portland stone, engraved only with the names of Winston and Clementine and their respective dates. Or at least something he could record for the neighbours back home.

"I pointed the camcorder but it wouldn't pick up the inscription at all. I had to read it onto the soundtrack," he said. "They could clean this place up; Churchill is very revered in the US. I expected



Churchill: wanted to be buried in simple grave

something bigger, but if this is what he wanted, that's fine by me. I just think they could look after it better."

Joy Spurrell, from Toronto, was equally underwhelmed. "It's not as prominent as it should be, and the grave-stones look older than they actually are. I expected better for such a great man. Graves need perpetual care."

Churchill lies surrounded

by his parents, Randolph and Jennie, his brother John, cousin Ivor, son Randolph, daughters Diana and Sarah and his son-in-law Lord Soames. All are plain, huddled in a plot hard by the church wall, and although far from neglected look tired and unimpressive.

They are surrounded by a weary sprinkle of gravel, and yesterday only one had flowers, that of Christopher Soames, still cared for by his widow and children. Cheap and undistinguished notices identify each family member.

Sir Winston's headstone has already been replaced at least once since his burial in 1965.

Churchill's love of Bladon stemmed from early visits to his father's tomb, the only one with any ornament, being surrounded by a simple Celtic stone cross. At the age of 11, he wrote to his mother: "I went this morning to Bladon to look at Papa's grave. I was so struck by the sense of quietness and peace, as well as by the old-world air of the place that my sadness was not unmingled with solace." His



Visitors take close-ups of the worn inscription on Churchill's grave yesterday

burial at Bladon, like that of Diana, Princess of Wales at Althorp, was a private family affair.

The only other memorial to him there is a board in the porch recording that, at his interment, a peal of Plain Bob Minor was rung on the church's half-muffled bells.

Several years ago plans for a much grander Churchill family tomb in the churchyard were rejected by the parochial church council, reflecting the desire of a majority of local people to adhere to Sir Win-

ston's wish for simplicity. But the refurbishment now planned by Winston Churchill, Sir Winston's grandson, has the full approval of the Rev Roger Humphreys, rector of Bladon and Woodstock and a trustee of the new project. "This is essentially maintenance. The graves are beginning to suffer from tourist fatigue; we get an average of two coachloads a day throughout the year."

Two categories of complaint reach the rector's ears: those from tourists who expect to see

the British equivalent of the Kennedy grave at Arlington and those who complain that the plot is scruffy and uncared for. "The locals still have a pride that Winston is here. They would want the grave kept much as he wanted it himself. If anything too elaborate had been planned, I think there would have been strong local resistance," he said.

But at least future camcorder wielders should be satisfied; the lettering on the new gravestones is to be raised in relief rather than incised.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nine held over death of reporter

Four women and five men were arrested in Dublin yesterday by Irish police investigating the murder in June last year of the journalist Veronica Guerin. They were being questioned about possible links with a drugs gang thought to be responsible for her murder.

Irish police have sent a file to the Director of Public Prosecutions about a former junior minister arrested in connection with the laundering of money belonging to a Dublin drugs gang.

Fatal bus crash

The driver of a minibus carrying young Scots was killed in a crash south of Clermont-Ferrand, France. Ten passengers, all from Glasgow, were slightly hurt. The cause of the crash, in which James Spencer, 22, died, was unclear.

£48,000 for poster

A poster for the 1942 film *Casablanca* was sold for £48,800 at Sotheby's, a British auction record for a film poster. The two-metre-square sheet, one of two known to exist, was bought by Andrew Cohen, head of the houseware retailer Betterware.

TV star on track

Michael Palin, star of BBC's *Full Circle*, had a train named after him at Darsham station, Suffolk. Palin unveiled his nameplate on an Anglia Railways Class 153 train. He is patron of the environmental group Transport 2000.

Fallen hero

A man on a sponsored parachute jump to raise money for a hospital finished the day as a patient there, after breaking his ankle. John Ryder, 36, was fundraising for the children's ward at West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

American Express would like to give you a first class birthday present.

Disneyland Paris is celebrating its 5th Birthday with special festivities and magical entertainment for adults and children alike. And to make it even more of a Party for you, American Express would like to give you a present - if you book a stay between 15 September and 19 December with your American Express Card we'll give you free upgrades all the way.

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Service Magique. Finally, to make your stay at Disneyland Paris even more magical, Service Magique

offers Cardmembers exclusive benefits: including discounts on merchandise, free lunches for your children, free drinks at your hotel and complimentary souvenirs of your stay.

It's party time in the Magic Kingdom.

As part of Disneyland Paris' continuing 5th Birthday celebrations all kinds of special events will be taking place this autumn like the 'California Dream' (until 12 October) and Halloween (25 October - 2 November). Not to mention all the other attractions that have made Disneyland Paris famously fun-filled already, with over 50 breathtaking attractions and shows in five magical Worlds for you to explore.

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horrified when I saw her," Mrs McFadden said. "She was a bag of bones and her skin looked as if it was stretched like clingfilm. Now she is eating like a horse and putting on weight again."

TABLE 1. Five categories associated with attitudes, beliefs, and values. The other three apply

Macho adverts blamed for road pollution

THE motor industry was attacked yesterday over links between pollution and the macho culture of big high-performance cars. The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution said that technology could deliver cars 40 per cent more fuel efficient and less damaging to the environment.

A commission report decried the advertising of cars which put engine size, luxury and acceleration over protecting public health. One member, Clair Chilvers, Professor of Epidemiology at Nottingham University, said a campaign was needed to make small, less gas-guzzling cars "more sexy".

Peter Doyle, another member and executive director of the pharmaceutical and agrochemical company Zeneca, said: "The current emphasis of motor industry advertising is taking us in the opposite direction to environmental sustainability."

The fashion for larger-engined cars and four-wheel-drive vehicles highlighted a cultural crisis. The commission said that few people used four-wheel-drives off the road, and the safety claims for smaller vehicles were nonsense.

The Government was urged to hold talks with the industry, to see how advertising could be modified. Roland Clift, director of the Centre for Environmental Strategy at the University of Surrey, said advertising campaigns should also try to change driving habits: "Most of the fuel consumption, 50 to 60 per cent, is taken up by aerodynamic drag. If you halve your speed, you save 25 per cent of the fuel. You also reduce accidents."

It is three years since the

Nick Nuttall and Kevin Eason report on calls for dearer fuel and 'sexier' small cars

royal commission's first report on transport. For the commission to revisit a subject is unprecedented. Its chairman, Sir John Houghton, former chief executive of the Meteorological Office, said transport represented the biggest environmental challenge of the age. "There have been large shifts in attitudes and policy, and there is much talk of the right kind. There remains the problem of translating talk into action."

The commission hopes that its recommendations will form part of a White Paper on transport. It says that lorries should need a permit - at a price - to use motorways, to better reflect their environmental impacts and costs in terms of damage to highways. Other measures include a ten-year fuel price rise, above the Government's current escalator of 5 per cent above inflation, to reduce car usage. Current increases were being undermined by a fall in underlying fuel prices.

Other key recommendations include proper planning to deliver an integrated transport system linking the car with buses, light rail, walking and cycling, and a sliding scale vehicle excise duty making it far cheaper to run a small, fuel-efficient car. Tighter limits on emissions

from new vehicles, which come into effect from 2000, would be followed by even tighter limits from 2005, despite industry resistance. Cleaner fuels, able to reduce emissions such as sulphur, would be given more help.

Councils would be able to charge for road use and non-residential private parking, using the money on integrated transport system. Urban areas and suburbs would no longer be designed in ways that enforce dependence on cars.

Car makers reacted angrily to criticisms, saying that they had poured billions of pounds into clean technology which had cut exhaust emissions by 30 per cent in five years, and said that ultimate responsibility for pollution rested with thousands of motorists who refused to service or maintain their cars. Ten per cent of cars cause half the pollution, according to RAC figures.



Robin Cook at the Foreign Office yesterday. He hopes its historic open day will present an "unstuffy" image

Foreign Office dons new school tie

By MICHAEL BINYON

ALMOST 1,000 schoolchildren, students, teachers and careers officers will today visit the Foreign Office, watch diplomats poring over telegrams and dispatches and help Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, to inaugurate a British Consulate in Ekaterinburg via a television link to the central Russian city.

The Foreign Office is throwing open its doors for the first time on a normal working weekday to show that it is no longer dominated by the old boys of a few public schools. Under "new" Labour, the new Foreign Office is redoubling efforts to encourage applications from women, ethnic minorities and graduates of provincial universities.

"Many people have no idea that the FCO is staffed by down-to-earth, unstuffy people," Mr Cook said. "I want it to represent all the communities of Britain."

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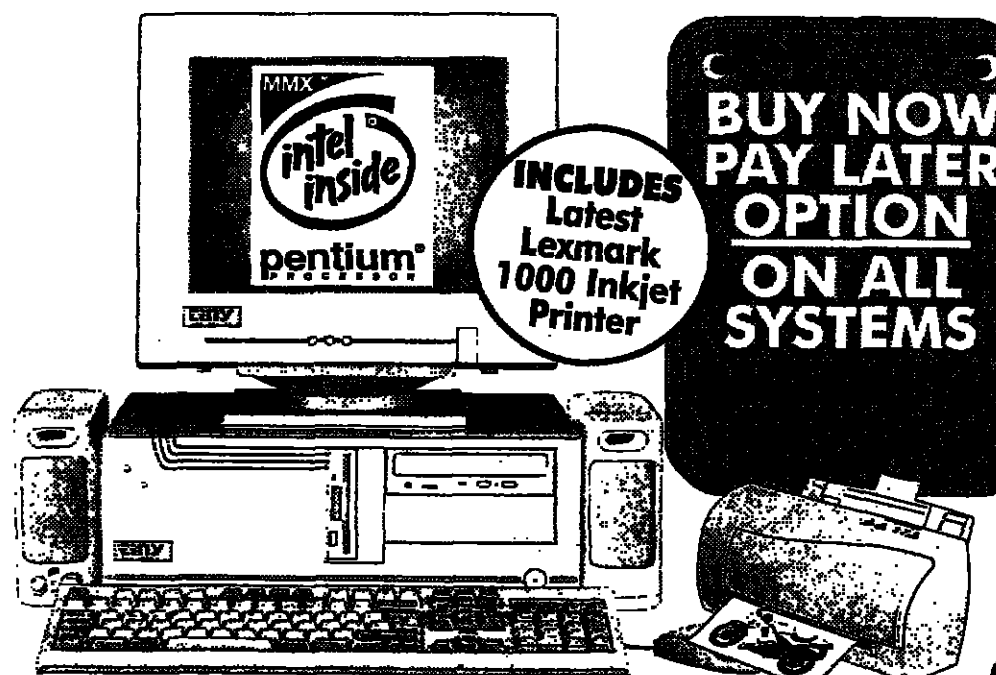
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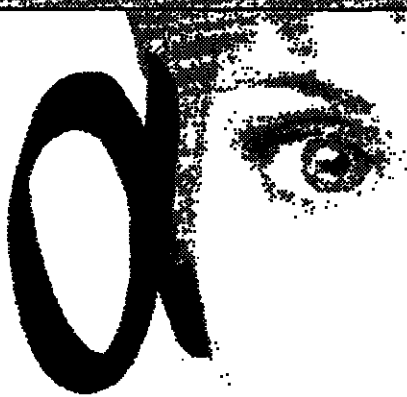
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A BRITISH company is set to make engines for cars and taxis whose only emission from the exhaust pipe will be water vapour. Zevco has made a prototype fuel-cell vehicle for postal services in Italy, and is talking to taxi operators in London because its engines provide similar performance and range to diesel engines, although they are fuelled by hydrogen. Production will start at a £2 million factory near Thane, Kent, aimed at full output in two years, targeting commercial vehicles first. Nick Abson,

the chief executive, said: "The motor industry must move to new technology. The reason the big carmakers don't move to fuel cells is because they have so much invested in current technologies." Fuel cells are used extensively in the space industry. The electrochemical system powers electric motors silently and cleanly. Zevco says that gas companies can provide hydrogen, making the cells feasible. Swapping diesel engines to fuel cells and batteries costs £3,000 to £4,000.

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Attacks force Hindley portrait to be removed

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE controversial portrait of the Moors murderer Myra Hindley in the Royal Academy of Arts' *Sensation* exhibition has had to be removed from display after being attacked and damaged by two protesters when the show opened yesterday.

The painting, Marcus Harvey's *Myra*, which could take up to a week to restore, was withdrawn from the exhibition temporarily last night as experts assessed the damage.

The first incident occurred when a man walked into the gallery with two small canisters containing red and blue Indian ink. He threw them at the portrait and was arrested. About an hour later, a second man was taken into custody after four eggs were thrown. "We hope to return the painting to the exhibition within a week. It depends entirely on the assessment provided by our conservators," a spokeswoman said.

Three callers to the children's charity Kidscape had earlier offered to attack the

painting. Winnie Johnson, the mother of Moors victim Keith Bennett, said the attacks were "brilliant and they should do it every day. I'm thrilled to bits it's happened and I'm hoping they will have to take it down."

Earlier Mrs Johnson, who was among protesters outside the venue, insisted the 9ft by 11ft picture of Hindley, formed by using child handprints, should be removed. "It is criminal and it is disgusting. She [Hindley] is not a person. She is a monster."

Her son was 12 when he went missing 33 years ago. His body has never been found. Hindley has admitted that she and her accomplice, Ian Brady, killed him.

The academy sent out tea and sandwiches to Mrs Johnson and other protesters and offered her the chance to be shown around the exhibition by David Gordon, the secretary. Mrs Johnson refused.

Earlier, the Metropolitan Police Vice Squad investigated works depicting rotting animal carcasses and mutilated



The portrait Myra, by Marcus Harvey

bodies after a complaint from a woman whose child was murdered by a paedophile. Inspector Ron Holmes said he was satisfied that there was a warning notice about the Chapman brothers' mutant mannequins with genitalia for facial features. "I don't think it warrants prosecution."

Another member of the academy, Gillian Ayres, 67, resigned in protest at the Hindley portrait. "I'm a mother. Feelings matter very

much," she said. "Life comes first. My sympathy is with the parents."

James Robinson, the academy's deputy secretary, said he regretted her decision, but added: "We've had loads of letters from academicians. Not all are against it."

Protesters outside the show included members of Mothers Against Murder and Aggression. Using a loudhailer, they urged visitors not to "waste £7 on a ticket."

One protester, Mandy Silvester, said the exhibition was a glorification of violence: "Myra Hindley's portrait would not be in there today if she hadn't killed those children. Maybe art does have a right to offend, but when a child is murdered the families of those children never live a normal life again."

Among yesterday's visitors, the actor and singer Ian Dury said it was clearly not intended to be about pleasure. Some 200,000 people are expected to visit the exhibition over the next few weeks.

Letters, page 19



Winnie Johnson, mother of one of the Moors murderers' victims, protesting outside the exhibition yesterday

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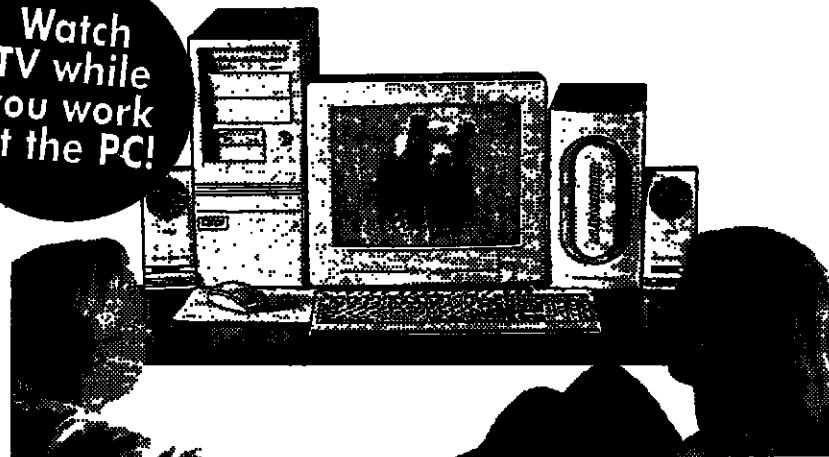
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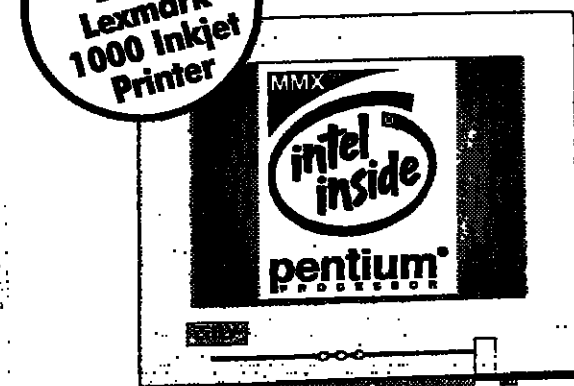
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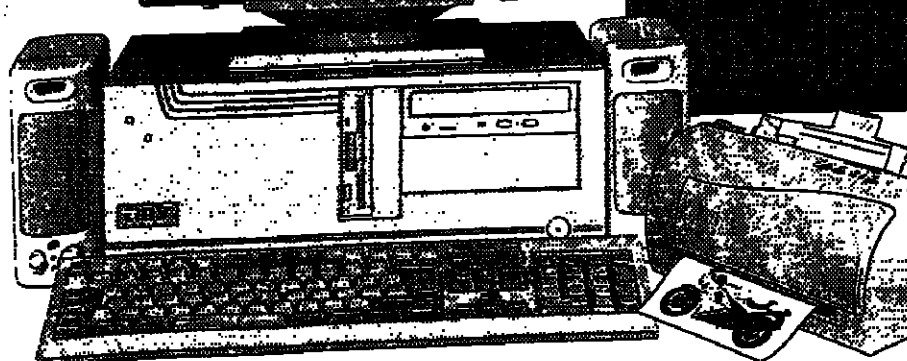
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Armed Forces unlikely to face further cuts

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is not expecting to reap a further peace dividend from the current strategic defence review, George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, indicated yesterday.

The review will not be completed until next January, but Mr Robertson said it was already clear that the Armed Forces must retain the capability to operate in all types of military activity, from high-intensity warfare to peace-keeping and humanitarian missions.

In a mid-review speech to the Royal United Services Institute in London, Mr Robertson said he was not going to speculate on "force structures or numbers or types of equipment for the future".

However, he said that if Britain was to continue playing a role in high-intensity conflicts and international security operations, "that could well require a demanding range and scale of capabilities".

Mr Robertson said: "It is now nearly ten years since the effective end of the Cold War, and we have already reaped a substantial peace dividend."

Since 1990, the strength of

the Armed Forces had been reduced from 315,000 to 215,000, some 32 per cent. The number of conventional armed submarines had fallen from 28 to 12; the number of destroyers and frigates from 48 to 35; infantry battalions from 55 to 40; the number of tanks cut by 45 per cent, and aircraft by some 30 per cent.

He said: "The previous Tory Government argued that they had maintained strong defences. In truth, in many areas they left the Armed Forces with serious problems."

He added: "Our increased operational commitments since the end of the Cold War have demonstrated that many British defence areas are suffering from severe overstretch."

He said the next stage of the review would ask whether "we have the right capabilities, either now or planned, and whether we correctly interpreted what technology will offer".

The review would also focus in detail on the missions for Britain's Armed Forces, the scale and level of deployments and "how we should modernise our force structures and capabilities".

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Palm tells future for detectives

DETECTIVES are to use palm reading to catch criminals in Cambridge-shire (Stewart Tindler writes). The first computerised system for storing palm prints was unveiled by the force yesterday.

Police say palm prints are an under-used asset: they are as unique as fingerprints, although fingerprints are used more because they are more widely found. Trials of the £30,000 system, starting with 500 prints, resulted in 12 arrests.

Video games 'teach sexism and violence'

CHILDREN are losing themselves in a world of evil foreigners, big-chested women and the need to prove themselves through violence, says an academic study. They are spending too long playing fantasy video games.

The games are being taken more seriously than many adults realise, says Dr Ken Parsons, a senior sociology lecturer at the Manchester Metropolitan University. "Playing a game can be, and more often than not is, a serious undertaking — on its outcome rests their feelings of self-esteem and competence."

To put it in adult terms, playing a game is a child's true reality — this takes it beyond the boundaries of its meaning for adults. In this sense, there is a danger that children and young people may become addicted to sex, addicted to sexism, addicted to violence.

In a sample of 61 teenagers — 36 boys and 25 girls aged 13 to 16 — questioned at youth clubs in Crewe and Dundee, about a quarter feared they were becoming addicted to the

It is a world of fantasy aggression and impossibly shaped women, but a study warns that children take it seriously. Russell Jenkins reports

games, with about 10 per cent spending more than 30 hours a week in front of the computer screen. One in 20 said they could not live without constant gratification of "beat 'em up" computer games, such as *Street Fighter* and *Duke Nukem 3D*.

The video-fantasy girl, Lara Croft, who stars in PlayStation's *Tomb Raider*, had become a craze among impressionable adolescents as a "sex symbol with attitude". Dr Parsons said: "These games encourage sexism and condition children to view the world in a way that they see on a computer screen."

Men are never rescued by women. Themes of female sex symbols, female kidnapping, female rescue and submission

pervade many children's experiences."

He identified three kinds of games: fantasies such as *Zelda 3* and *Dungeon Keeper*, brain teasers such as *Super Mario Brothers*, and blaster games such as *Interstellar Assault*, *Killer Instinct* and *Fighters Megamix*. The games chiefly feature terrorists, prizefighters, police teams and robotic detectives. Foreigners were invariably buddies and women were acted upon rather than initiating action, said Dr Parsons.

The study found that a third of parents — who generally play the games, costing up to £45 each — are concerned that their children lack physical fitness, and 10 per cent expressed concern at the anti-social behaviour that such

games encouraged. A third of the teenagers had been encouraged by their families to reduce their playing time, one in five had experienced physical strain through playing too much, and 26 per cent admitted they were "too attached" to games and found it difficult to stop playing.

The software in which Lara Croft stars is a bestseller, grossing more than £1 million in the first six months after its launch in October 1996. Dr Parsons describes her as a "gun-wielding baddie-blasting sex symbol, whose very large breasts are designed to be out of proportion with the rest of her body."

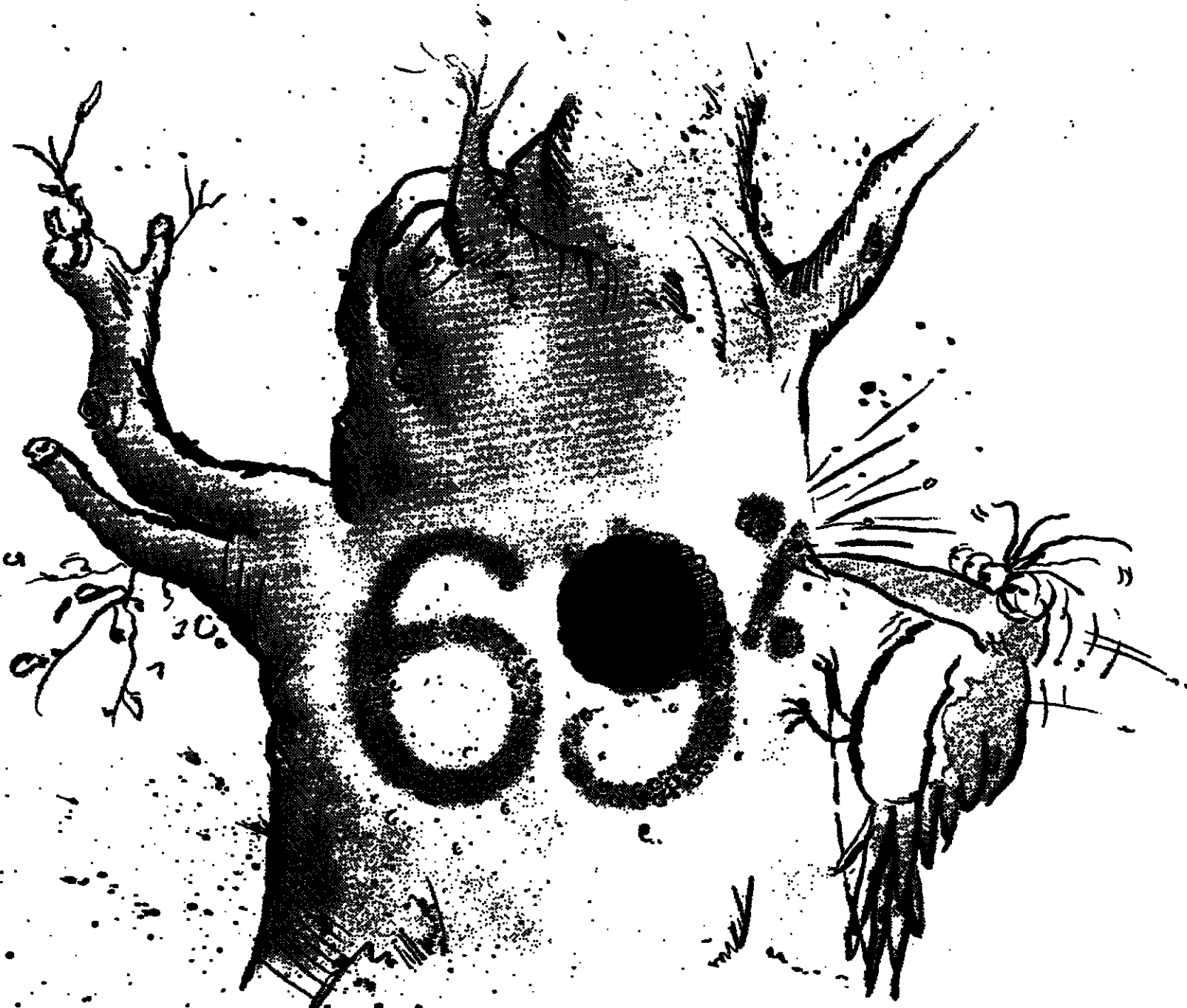
Her female competition includes Q-Bee, a bee woman, who is advertised as being "sexy in her ultra-cute costume".

Lara Croft's pin-up picture has appeared as a centrefold in *Loaded* magazine. The character has spawned a television series and a record, and it has been rumoured that a secret room exists within the game where the player can peel away her clothes.



The actress Rhona Mitra as Lara Croft at the launch of a computer game

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Teenagers in North take most drugs

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

YOUNG people in the North and the Midlands are increasingly turning to drugs, while in London and the South the practice is in decline, according to a Home Office study published today.

Among the trend-setting 16 to 19-year-olds, the North now has a higher level of drug abuse than London, a reversal of the position three years ago. The study even suggests that the fashion for dance drugs, such as Ecstasy, may be in decline in London and the South.

Overall, in England and Wales, the level of drug misuse stabilised between 1994 and 1996, although it is too early to suggest that this is anything other than a pause before abuse rises again.

Almost half of young people in England and Wales aged 16 to 29 claimed to have taken an illegal drug at some time in their lives, but more recent consumption was much lower, according to results from the 1996 British Crime Survey.

About one in four had taken an illegal drug in the past 12 months and one in seven in the past month, the study, conducted in 1993-1994 and again in 1995-1996, found. In 1994, 23 per cent of 16 to 29-year-olds had taken an illegal drug in the past year.

Cannabis is the most commonly used drug, followed by amphetamines and LSD. But

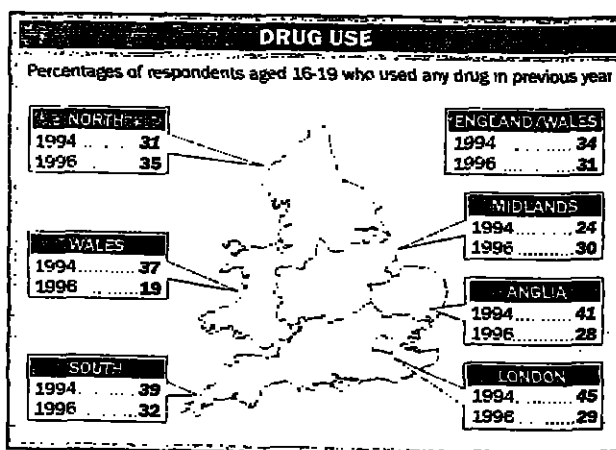
Ecstasy is the least popular of the hallucinogenic drugs, with only 9 per cent of 16 to 29-year-olds ever taking it.

George Howarth, a Home Office Minister, said that, though the figures remained worryingly high, the overall results of the study challenged the notion that drug misuse was escalating out of control. "We have to remember that, for most young people, drug taking is not part of their normal behaviour and that just one in seven had taken a drug in the last month."

He added that, for many young people, taking drugs was an isolated experience or something they grew out of, and that the Government was acting to help more of them to make sensible decisions.

But while the study of 11,000 people aged 16 to 59 highlights relatively stable levels of drug misuse in England and Wales, it found clear regional differences between the North and Midlands and the South. The North has the highest rates of all regions, both for the taking of any drug and dance drugs in 1996, when two years earlier it was below the national average.

The study found that 26 per cent of 16 to 29-year-olds in the North and 19 per cent in the Midlands used a drug in the past year, compared with 22 per cent and 16 per cent respectively in 1994.



SNP organisers face the music

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

FORGET the power dressing of Labour conferences. Capes and wellington boots are called for at the annual gathering of Scottish nationalists on the Isle of Bute, in the Firth of Clyde, next week.

An accommodation shortage in the main town of Rothesay, caused by a clash with Bute's International Country Music Festival, has condemned an unlucky few SNP delegates to a rainy week in a caravan or under canvas.

About 1,000 party members are expected to arrive on the island next Wednesday, followed on Friday by 700 country music fans. But with only 27 hotels and a dozen guesthouses in the town, amounting to about 800 beds, there is not a bed to be had.

The SNP has advertised in *The Buteman* for local people willing to open their homes and more than 50 have responded, some offering rooms free of charge. But some party members may have to bed down in a Scout hall or brave the forecast September rain in a field made available by the council.

Careful to book early, Alex Salmond, SNP leader, has an hotel room, as do the SNP HQ staff, most of whom are staying in the Victoria Hotel. Gerry Chambers, an SNP member on Bute who is helping to arrange emergency accommodation, said: "We advised delegates to book early. Most people took our advice but we still have about a dozen delegates looking for beds."

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FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

WORKING on the principle that America's heart can be reached through its stomach, the CIA has produced a commemorative cookbook of covert recipes designed to give the persecuted spy agency greater public appeal on its 50th anniversary.

At bookshops throughout the United States next week, readers will be able to peruse *Spies, Black Ties and Mango Pies*, a pot-pourri of culinary delights from former agents and their spouses, including Barbara Bush and the wives of eight other former CIA directors as well as Stephanie Glakas-Temet, wife of the incumbent.

Cooking was one of the few topics considered permissible at the dinner tables of the agency's extended empire. "Food and cooking, along with my family, allowed me to cope with and even enjoy my strange world," writes Kay Shaw Nelson, a cookbook author and former CIA agent.

Some of the recipes show the resourceful nature of spymasters' wives. Apple and cabbage salad, and coleslaw soufflé, were created by CIA families in Moscow when local shops carried little other than the vegetable. There is even a formula for dog biscuits and directions, as follows, for snake soup. "Catch a cobra. Cut off its head and remove the skin and internal organs. Chop the body into 2-inch pieces. Put pieces in a

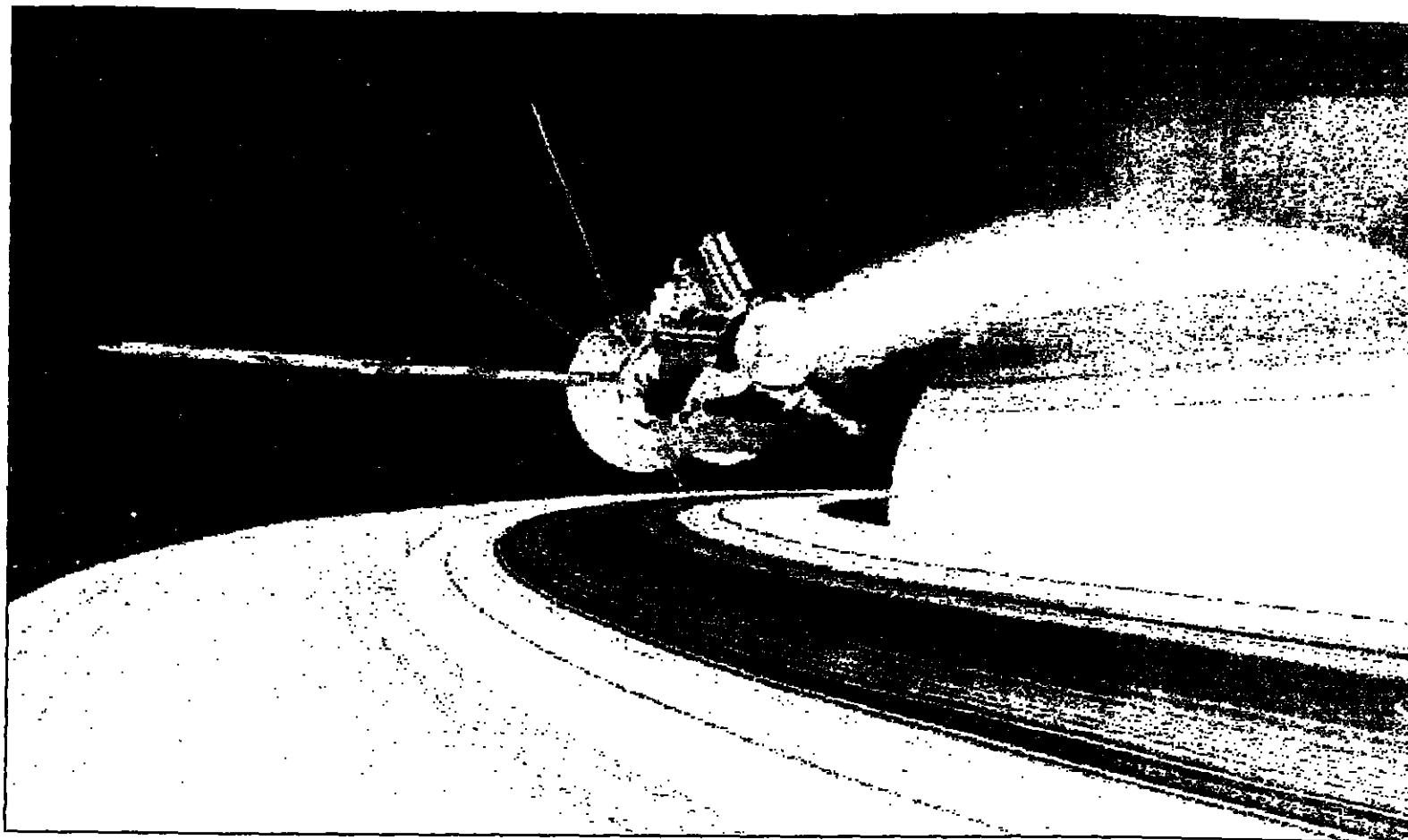
large pot with half a gallon of water and boil for 45 minutes. Add monosodium glutamate and salt and boil for 30 minutes. Serve hot."

Recipes also include accompanying tales of derring-do. Exotic swordfish in marinade recalls a group of agents being tailed as they sought a restaurant in a communist country. Eventually the tails helped them to find it.

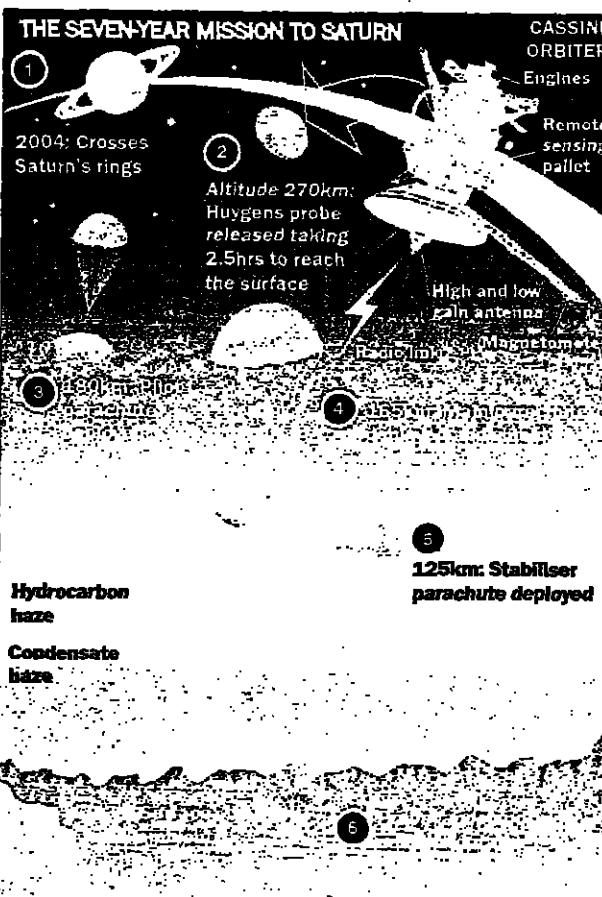
Mrs Bush, who lived in China when her husband was head of the US Liaison Office in Beijing, remembers the terrors of the Chinese sea slug. "Whenever we had Chinese guests, our chef insisted we serve them," she writes. "To add insult to injury, sea slugs cost \$25 a pound. When we served them at banquets, we bit the bullet and ate them."

Most of the more than 100 contributing cooks have kept their last names secret, an ironic twist at a time when the agency has been desperate to forget the clandestine horrors of its past. But some authors, who submitted their names to the CIA's publications review office, felt it necessary to conceal their identity. "If people in foreign embassies go through and read the stories," explained Barbara X, "they'll know so and so must have been working for the agency. We didn't want to make horribly crystal-clear where we were."

Leading article, page 19



An artist's impression of the probe when it approaches Saturn. It is not expected to get there until 2004 and then begins a four-year orbit



Biggest space probe ready for £2bn voyage to Saturn

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE century's last great planetary probe — and the biggest spacecraft to be sent to the outer solar system — is ready for launch at Cape Canaveral.

British scientists have a big share in Cassini-Huygens, a project that has occupied 4,000 people for the past six years, and will have cost £2.2 billion when it reaches Saturn in 2004. Eleven laboratories have contributed to experiments on the ringed planet and its largest moon, Titan.

As big as a single-decker bus, Cassini-Huygens is the last great hurrah of the era of planetary exploration which began in the 1960s. Future missions will be cheaper and much quicker, but will not have the same capacity to gather information, said Professor David Southwood of Imperial College. "This is the only chance we'll get to go to Saturn in our lifetime."

The mission has two craft which will travel together. Cassini will go into a four-year orbit around Saturn, while the European-built Huygens probe will descend to the surface of Titan, which is almost as big as Mars.

Launch was delayed by a mishap when a cooling blower damaged insulation inside the Huygens probe. Yesterday British scientists said the launch was set for October 13.

There will be a long wait for results. "This is the most massive probe ever launched into deep space, and even with the most powerful rockets it can't go direct to Saturn," said Dr John Zarnecki, of the University of Kent. "We have to use fly-bys of other planets to gain speed."

Cassini-Huygens will make close passes of Venus in April 1998 and June 1999, the Earth in August 1999, and Jupiter in

December 2000. It will reach Saturn in June 2004 and will go into orbit around it.

Four months after entering orbit, Cassini will release Huygens, which will approach Titan at 12,000mph. Titan is the only moon in the solar system to have an atmosphere, and Huygens will slow down with parachutes designed by the Martin-Baker company, based near Uxbridge, Middlesex.

After seven years and a journey of more than two billion miles, the probe will have a maximum of half an hour of life to send back data.

Britain is to spend £36 million — 1.5 per cent of the total cost — on the mission. Teams from nine British universities, the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory and the Institute of Oceanographic Sciences are involved with experiments.

WORLD SUMMARY

Blast kills island miners

Longyearbyen: A powerful explosion killed 23 Russians and Ukrainians working in a coal mine on the remote Norwegian Svalbard Islands, officials said.

The victims were Russians and Ukrainians working in a mine in Barentsburg, 30 miles west of Longyearbyen, the district capital of the Svalbards.

The islands, 400 miles north of the mainland, have several Russian coal-mining settlements, allowed under a 1920 treaty. The cause of the blast was not known. At least 34 people survived. (AP)

Public execution

Moscow: A Chechen firing squad has executed two men in front of a crowd of several thousand people in the Square of the Friendship of the Peoples in Grozny (Robin Lodge writes). It was the second public execution this month and was carried out in defiance of Moscow's protests. The two were convicted by a Sharia (Islamic) court of murdering a mother and her two children during a robbery.

Contest chaos

New York: The Rev Al Sharpton, the black Democrat fighting for his party's nomination for November's mayoral election here, vowed to "fight in court" after a chaotic recount of absentee voters knocked him out of the run-off next week (Tunku Varadarajan writes). Ruth Messinger, his rival, had originally been credited with 39.9 per cent of the vote, but her tally was later put at a winning 41.16 per cent.

Crooner dies

Nice: Georges Guétary, the French crooner whose 60-year career included a major Hollywood role with Gene Kelly in *An American in Paris*, has died aged 82. He was born Lambros Worlou to a Greek family in the Egyptian city of Alexandria. (Reuters)

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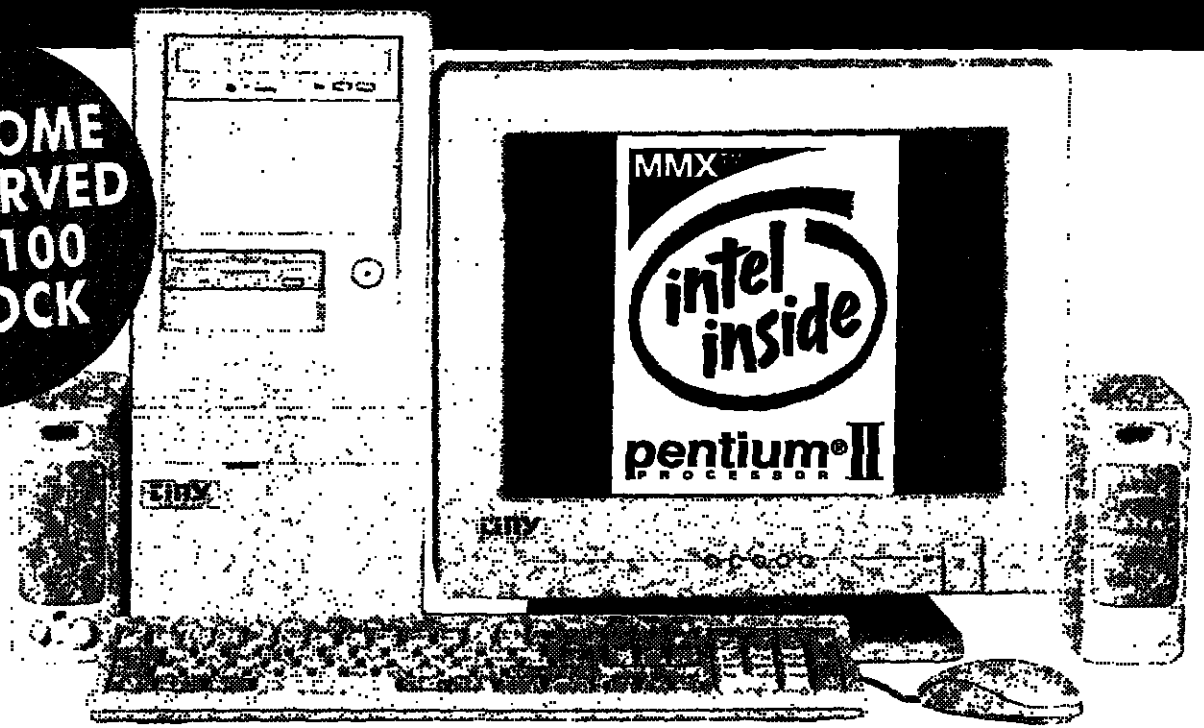
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Bonn shrugs off Kinkel doubts on budget target

FROM DEBORAH COLCUTT IN FRANKFURT

THE German Government has played down harmful comments by Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Minister, about the single European currency before the Franco-German summit, which began in the state of Thuringia yesterday afternoon.

Officials from the Foreign and Finance Ministries were quick to "clarify" that Germany had not relaxed its commitment to reaching the Maastricht treaty budget target, despite suggestions by Herr Kinkel that economic and monetary union (EMU) could begin regardless of deficit levels.

In an interview with a German radio station, Herr Kinkel seemed to imply that EMU would happen even if Germany and France had not reached the 3 per cent target set by the treaty, just as Bonn and Paris were both emphasising that the single currency would start exactly as planned. His comments were broadcast as the Bundesbank and the French Government confirmed that the euro would be launched on time.

It is not the first time Herr Kinkel has strayed from the party line on EMU budget deficits. On the last occasion he received a public knuckle-

rapping from Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, and Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor. But Herr Kohl, who is trying to convince a sceptical public in an election year to give up the mark, will be keen to smooth over problems with his Christian Democrat-Free Democrat (CDU-FDP) coalition for the 70th biennial Franco-German summit, being held in the town of Weimar.

Herr Kohl and Lionel Jospin, France's Prime Minister, are said to have patched up differences over Europe and both are eager to discuss EMU. It is the first time the summit has been held in the old Communist east, but is



Kinkel: wrong message on single currency

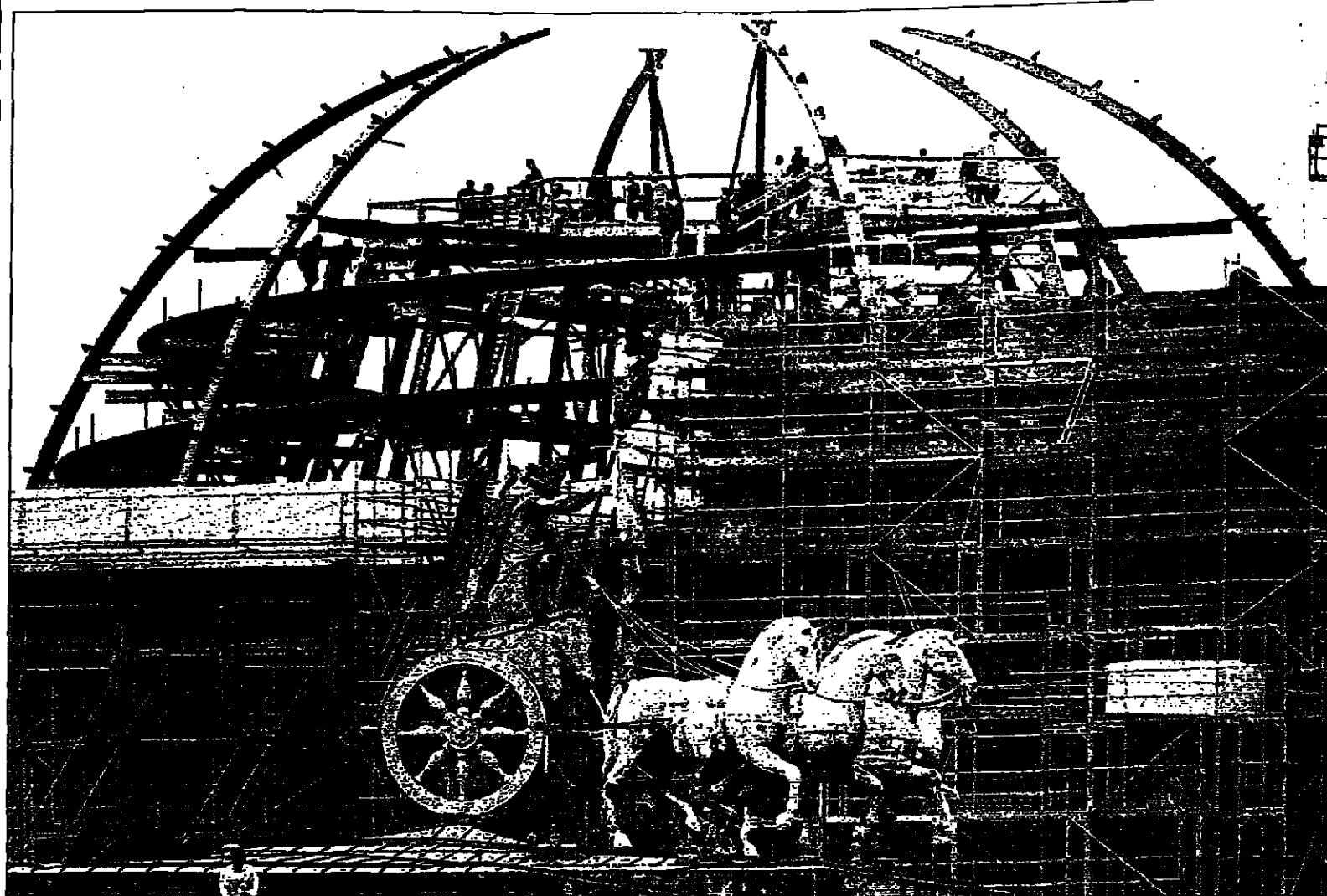
expected to be fairly low-key, as finance ministers from both sides are attending the International Monetary Fund annual meeting in Hong Kong.

President Chirac and leading Cabinet ministers will also attend the two-day talks, which will cover eastward expansion of the European Union (EU), a proposed European jobs summit in November, and Germany's demand for a reduction in its EU budget contributions.

As discussions got under way, a poll, conducted by the Bavarian Wicket Institutes, revealed that nearly three out of four Germans fear the euro will be weaker than the mark. Only 17 per cent of the 970 interviewed did not share such views and 42 per cent said they were not well enough informed to voice an opinion.

The Finance Ministry denied there was any truth in rumours circulating in foreign exchange markets that Herr Waigel has resigned. A spokeswoman said it was "nonsense" to suggest he had quit following criticism by the chairman of the CDU in the Saar region, Peter Müller. Herr Müller said: "Herr Waigel's mismanagement of the economy would cost the Christian Democrats the general election next September."

Germans see crowning glory of revamped Reichstag



Visitors inspect the Reichstag during a topping-out ceremony in Berlin yesterday. The Quadriga statue on the Brandenburg Gate is in the foreground. Sir Norman Foster, the British architect heading the reconstruction project, and Rita Süßmuth, the

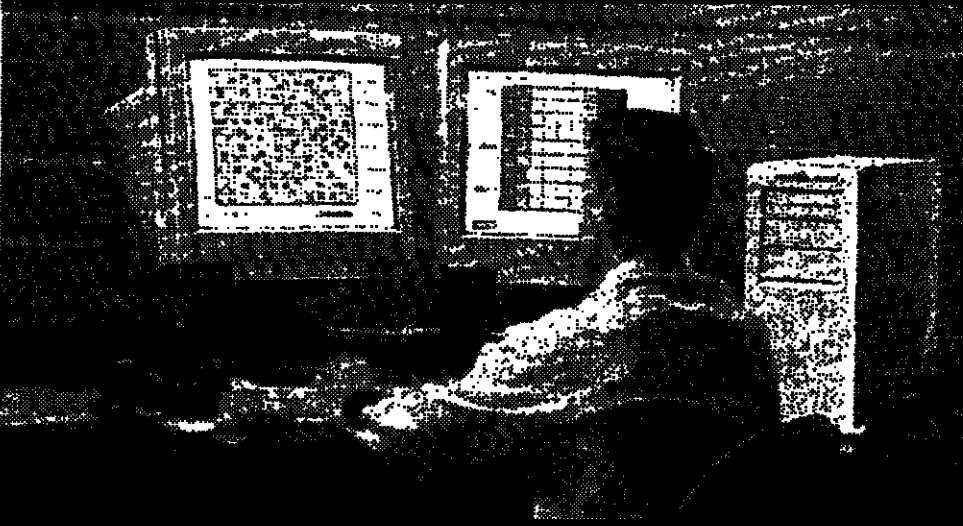
British architect celebrates success

president of the Bundestag, the lower house of the German parliament, celebrated together, below, before a new cupola, trimmed with garlands,

was lifted on top of the dome. The new design, with its glass additions, retains the grandeur of the original High Renaissance structure while

introducing an airy feel. The Reichstag burnt to the ground weeks after Hitler's rise to power in 1933 and was destroyed in the final days of the Second World War. The German Government is to move from Bonn to Berlin in 1999.

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Yeltsin hints at deal on Kuriles

Moscow: President Yeltsin yesterday said Russia might be willing to compromise with Japan over the Kurile Islands, when he urged "joint development" of the territory, disputed for a half-century (Richard Beeston writes).

Mr Yeltsin said in the southern town of Oryol he was

persuaded that the problem would be resolved after the turn of the century by a younger generation.

Mr Yeltsin clearly hopes to break the deadlock when he meets Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, next month in Krasnoyarsk. The Kuriles are among Rus-

sia's most neglected areas and Japanese investment could be the key to their future. Mr Yeltsin may have been influenced by Aleksandr Lebed, his former National Security Adviser, who in Japan this week suggested a 20-year handover of the Kuriles and a referendum.

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Leaders condemn Cairo slaughter

**Terrorist gang
kills ten in
midday raid
on museum
tourist bus**

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER
MIDDLE EAST
CORRESPONDENT
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

SUSPECTED Islamic militants killed ten people, including six German tourists, on a tourist bus in the centre of Cairo yesterday. Nineteen other Egyptians and tourists were wounded.

Five men disguised as businessmen attacked the bus, carrying 33 tourists, which was parked outside the Egyptian Museum at midday. One man boarded and started shooting. When he saw several tourists escaping through the rear entrance, he threw a petrol bomb inside. He then ran out and put a second bomb under the bus.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said that the attack was "cowardly and contemptible". In Washington, Madeleine Albright, the American Secretary of State, said that it was "barbaric". Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, also strongly denounced the attack.

Fabian Muir, an Australian tourist, said that he and his girlfriend were about 30ft from the buses when they heard shots. "We were walking toward the gate of the museum and suddenly I heard two shots. Then a big flame rose up above the top of the bus." The couple hid next to a wall. "We ducked. We lay down near a low wall. The Egyptian police were shouting to us, 'Get down, get down,'" he said.

Amid scenes of chaos, in which many frightened tourists were temporarily locked inside the museum as police struggled for more than 30 minutes to capture the gunmen, a French tourist said: "I was outside the building and saw a man running out of the bus in flames."

Police sealed off all roads leading to the area close to the central Tahrir Square, the site of earlier attacks against foreigners. An Indian businessman with an office close to the



An Egyptian official in the burnt-out wreckage of the Cairo bus. Terrorists shot at passengers before petrol bombs were thrown. Six of the dead were German tourists

museum said he saw two tourists covered in blood being led away by police.

The Egyptian Interior Ministry said one of the men arrested, Farahat Abu el-Ela, had escaped from a mental hospital where he was being held after killing three foreigners at the Semiramis Intercontinental Hotel in Cairo in 1993. His brother Mahmoud was also arrested after the attack. Security sources said the third gunman was shot in the head and was in a critical condition. Two attackers escaped.

Yesterday's attack was seen as a defiant response by the militants, who are fighting for an Iranian-style revolution, to boasts from senior Egyptian security officials that they had been defeated and driven to marginal areas of Upper Egypt 250 miles from the capital. Three days earlier, a court convicted 72 militants of

subversion in Egypt's largest terrorist trial. Four were sentenced to death and eight to life imprisonment.

The blow to the tourist industry, vital for Egypt's ailing economy, was described by one Western diplomat as "doubly damaging" because it came as tourism was just recovering from an earlier wave of Islamist violence.

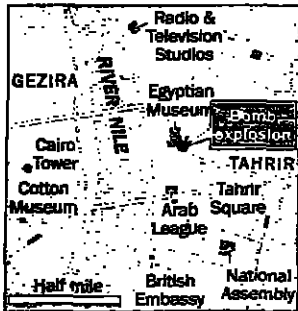
The most serious attack was in April last year when 17

Greek tourists were shot outside their hotel close to the Pyramids by Islamic extremists who mistook them for Israelis.

Although the main Islamic groups fighting to overthrow President Mubarak and what they describe as his "apostate regime" have repeatedly warned foreign tourists and businessmen to leave the country, their threats have been increasingly ignored since 1995. The Government has contemptuously dismissed peace moves from some of the militants.

According to Arab security experts, the Islamic groups attempting to overthrow President Mubarak are badly split. Yesterday's attack was seen as an indication that one wing remains bitterly opposed to any suggestion of a ceasefire.

Leading article, page 19



Witnesses tell of gunfight

FROM EMAD MEKAY IN CAIRO

CAIRO'S fashionable and cultural heart was a scene of mayhem with smoke from the burning bus hanging over Tahrir Square.

The pavement beside the bus was strewn with spent cartridges and flooded with water where the fire brigade had tried to bring the blaze under control.

"We first heard an explosion which sounded like a car tyre going off," said Ahmed Ozbab, who watched the attack from a third-floor window overlooking the scene. "As I rushed to the window to see what had happened another explosion followed and the front of the bus was already in flames. All the

windows were shattered. Tourists were jumping off the rear of the bus and running away. Some of them were bleeding badly."

A newspaper seller who works near Tahrir Square said he saw the police run after one attacker and catch him. "He was casually dressed," he said. "When the policemen caught him the crowd," he shouted "Allahu Akbar."

"I was sitting in the coffee shop," said Maga Bohn, a Danish tourist at the nearby Nile Hilton. "I heard the shots. We went to see what was happening but the police pushed us back."

Mr Ozbab said: "They [the terrorists] were shooting in the air at first for at least ten minutes but later they were shooting at the police. One of the terrorists was hiding under the buses, another was running between them. Later we saw the armoured cars of the police commandos arrive. It was they who arrested the terrorists."

By midday all that remained of the bombed bus was a blackened skeleton of seat frames and broken windows.

At least three other buses were riddled with bullet holes. One bullet nearly punctured the glass above a driver's seat, where he had placed a Koran in the window.

Violence likely as settler deal is spurned

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

ISRAEL is braced for widespread Palestinian violence today after an aide to Yasser Arafat, the President of the Palestinian Authority, dismissed as a "trick" an Israeli compromise to end the occupation by Jewish settlers of two former Palestinian houses in annexed east Jerusalem.

Israeli security sources said the Government had been warned that Palestinian resentment would be whipped up by speakers at mosques during Friday prayers in east Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Arab anger was likely to spill on to the streets.

The complex political deal was hammered out after hours of talks involving Irving Moskowitz, the American Jewish multimillionaire who financed the purchase of the disputed houses at Ras al-Amoud, overlooking al-Aqsa mosque, Islam's third holiest shrine. Under the deal, the three families who moved into the buildings under cover of darkness would voluntarily move out, but ten Jewish yeshiva (seminary) students would be allowed to live in the premises, which would become a religious school.

The Palestinian Cabinet was in emergency session in Gaza last night to formulate its official reaction to the deal.

Ahmed Tibi, a senior aide to Mr Arafat, said the Israeli Government had "now given legitimacy to the presence of the so-called yeshiva students". He said on Israeli radio: "Mr Netanyahu will be responsible for the reaction."

Meanwhile, the Israeli death toll in clashes in Lebanon this month rose to 16 yesterday when an Israeli officer, 21, was killed by an anti-tank rocket fired by Hezbollah guerrillas.

□ **Babies abducted:** A former senior Israeli figure, Rabbi Menachem Porush, has broken a decades-long silence to confirm that authorities snatched hundreds of babies from Yemeni Jewish immigrants nearly 50 years ago and gave them to European-born Jews for adoption. (Reuters)

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Ugandan cult rebels 'use children as sex slaves'

THOUSANDS of children from northern Uganda are being forced to take up arms and serve as sexual slaves by a rebel group which aims to rule Uganda according to the Ten Commandments.

Most of those abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and turned into child soldiers are aged between 13 and 16. The children, say two newly published human rights reports, are made to take part in combat, act as personal servants and, in the case of girls, to serve as "wives" to rebel commanders.

Between 5,000 and 8,000 children have been conscripted in the past three years, according to Amnesty International. In a report, *Breaking God's commands: the destruction of childhood by the Lord's Resistance Army*, the organisation says children are being tortured, murdered and trained by the LRA to fight government troops.

Amnesty's findings are corroborated by those of the New York-based Human Rights Watch, which claims that kid-

Rights groups say kidnapped teenagers must fight or die in the Lord's Resistance Army, reports David Orr

napped children are made to undergo brutal initiation ceremonies. These involve beating and hacking to death fellow child captives who had tried to escape.

Using testimony from children who have escaped, Amnesty paints a picture of abuse and trauma. Children who refuse to comply with rebel commands are starved, raped and whipped.

"The commander gave us husbands, except for the young ones, those below 13," said one former child soldier. "But from 13 onwards, we were all given as wives. There was no marriage ceremony. If you refuse, you are killed."

The abduction of girls and their forced marriage to older LRA soldiers is the cornerstone of the movement's internal organisation, said Amnesty. Girls are allocated as a reward and incentive for male soldiers. "If a husband gets

tired of his wife, he gets rid of her and she is given to someone else," said a counsellor working with former child soldiers in Uganda. "Within a one-year period, girls would have seen many husbands."

Nearly all female escapees were found to have syphilis or other sexually transmitted diseases. Counsellors say that all kidnapped girls eventually fall victim to rape by the head of the LRA "family" to which they are allocated.

Children who escape are often afraid to go home for fear of reprisals against themselves and their families, said Human Rights Watch. The conflict is believed to have displaced more than 200,000 Ugandans.

The LRA, which terrorises villages in northern Uganda, might be dismissed as a band of crazed eccentrics were it not for the havoc it sows. Bicycles are outlawed by the movement and those caught cycling have their feet hacked off. There are also reports of peasants having their ears or lips cut off.

A weird cultish belief dictates that all white animals, and all pigs, must be slaughtered. Farmers found working on Fridays — like Sunday — are deemed a day of rest — are

killed. The LRA, committed to the overthrow of the Government of President Museveni, is supported by the Islamic fundamentalist Government of Sudan. The movement has been receiving arms from Khartoum in return for helping in attacks against Sudanese People's Liberation Army rebels in southern Sudan.

Military sources in Uganda indicate, however, that Sudan has recently cut off supplies to the LRA, forcing hundreds of its fighters back into Uganda. The LRA has its origins in the fragmentation of government forces after the 1986 overthrow of Milton Obote's dictatorial regime by President Museveni. Some die-hardards from the Acholi tribal area of the north took to the bush, where they joined the Holy Spirit Movement of the self-styled priestess, Alice Lakwena. After a period under the leadership of Lakwena's father, the movement was taken over by Joseph Kony, her cousin, who renamed it the Lord's Resistance Army in 1993.



Museveni: guerrillas want to depose him



Doctors treat Azem Hajdari after he was shot by a fellow MP yesterday

Albanian MP shoots rival in parliament

BY RICHARD OWEN AND JAMES PETTIFER

ALBANIA experienced its first serious political violence since the June election which brought the Socialists to power when a leading supporter of Sali Berisha, the ousted right-wing President, was shot and seriously wounded yesterday inside the parliament in Tirana.

Azem Hajdari was recovering in hospital after being shot by Gafur Mazreku, an MP from the ruling Socialists.

Mr Mazreku was no longer an MP but an "ordinary criminal", said Fatos Nano, the Prime Minister, adding that he would be relieved of his seat. The Socialist-dominated assembly voted to lift Mr Mazreku's parliamentary immunity so that he could be charged with the attempted murder of Mr Hajdari, who doctors said had been wounded in the lungs, legs and shoulders.

The two men had earlier come to blows in parliament during a debate on Tuesday on proposals by Arben Malaj, the Finance Minister, to raise value-added tax.

The roots of the shooting appear to lie rather deeper than a difference over economic policy, however. Ten-

sions have run high between Right and Left since Mr Nano, a political prisoner under Mr Berisha, became Prime Minister after the June elections. The elections brought to an end the Democratic Party's dominance of post-Communist Albania, and rightwingers have complained that the former Communists have since "persecuted" the defeated Right and stifled its voice by refusing it television time.

Mr Hajdari was a prominent student leader during the anti-Communist revolt in 1990-1991 led by Dr Berisha, the former heart surgeon who became President in 1992.

But suspicion of the former Communists and resentment of their cruelty when in power under the detested Enver Hoxha remained strong. Mr Hajdari, known for his fiery oratory and temperament, was notably tough in his dealings with the Socialists during his period as head of the parliamentary public order and security committee, which oversees the police and security services. Socialist demonstrations were broken up and left-wing leaders were detained and beaten.

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Jiang purges key 'liberal' rival for leadership

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

THE third most powerful man in the Chinese leadership, the secretive but seemingly liberal Qiao Shi, was dropped from the Central Committee of the Communist Party in a surprise move yesterday as President Jiang Zemin consolidated his position as party chief.

Mr Qiao, 72, who is chairman of China's parliament, the National People's Congress, and credited with making it less of a rubber-stamp body, was the most senior figure in the leadership who had differences with the President, despite claims of unity after the death in February of Deng Xiaoping, the senior leader and architect of China's market reforms.

Mr Qiao's departure from the Central Committee means he loses his position as one of the six members of the powerful Politburo. President Jiang has therefore lost a potential rival.

There had been speculation about Mr Qiao's future ranking in

the standing committee, but never any suggestion he would step down. "He has retired," said one Chinese official, a former security chief who is now a political moderate.

Another standing committee member, General Liu Huaqing, 81, the country's senior military leader who was also considered a rival to Mr Jiang and sixth in the hierarchy, was also dropped, but his departure was less surprising on account of his age.

Younger Politburo members were elected yesterday and Beijing will announce the complete line-up today. Chinese sources said last night it was virtually certain that the unpopular Prime Minister, Li Peng, who must step down in March after two terms, would be given Mr Qiao's parliamentary chairmanship.

Mr Qiao, who has done much to begin to build the rule of law in China, would end up out in the cold along with his protégés, the sources

added. Diplomats said that giving a parliamentary position to a hardliner such as Mr Li, who signed the martial law order that sent troops into Tiananmen Square in June 1989, would send the wrong signal to the world about Chinese reforms. Some Chinese officials indicated that Mr Li's move into Mr Qiao's post was not definite. "You will see better by the end of the year," one said.

The week-long party congress, with 2,048 delegates, adopted a programme of sweeping economic reforms, including selling or declaring bankrupt many state-owned enterprises, while approving political changes to take China into the 21st century. The Chinese media hailed the congress as breaking new ideological ground.

To some Chinese, Mr Qiao's fate was not surprising. "There was never any doubt this would happen," one office worker said. "Qiao was a man of ability and thus dangerous in Jiang's eyes." The last



Bitter cup: Qiao Shi, right, and Zhu Rongji, the Deputy Prime Minister, being served tea at the congress in Beijing yesterday

senior leader to lose his position was the former party chief, Zhao Ziyang, who was purged after apparently showing sympathy for demonstrating students in Tiananmen Square just before the

crackdown. "It is almost unprecedented for someone of Qiao's stature to be unceremoniously dumped like this," one analyst said. China's leaders concede that the next few years could prove the most

difficult of the reform process. President Jiang's efforts to make state industries more efficient could increase unemployment and encourage corruption, with officials trying to buy state assets below

their value. "It doesn't matter to me who is up and who down," said a Beijing taxi-driver last night after the congress had ended. "We common folk will still be doing the same thing."

World Bank signals boom time for China

CHINESE economic development has been so rapid that, if China's 30 provinces were counted as individual economies, the 20 fastest growing economies in the world between 1978 and 1995 would have been Chinese, the World Bank said yesterday, forecasting further strong growth.

Although the bank describes a possible disastrous downturn, its outlook is optimistic. "Can China meet its challenges? We believe it can," said Vikram Nehru, main author of a World Bank report on the Chinese economy.

The bank is holding its annual meeting in Hong Kong and its report is rich in superlatives about the China phenomenon. It underwrites this confidence by lending China more money than any other country, \$3 billion (£1.8 billion) last year and a total since the early 1980s of \$28 billion.

Over the next 25 years it expects the Chinese economy to undergo a transformation which, the report claims, took about 65 years in Latin America and 80 years in the world's most advanced economies.

These changes, the bank forecasts, "will stretch China's social fabric to the limit", as hundreds of millions of people move to better

jobs, agriculture gives way to industry and urbanisation increases. Within 50 years the average Chinese will no longer be a farmer but an employee in either industry or services.

The bank projects two future models for China. One, considered a far less likely scenario, is China becoming the first significant example in East Asia of rapid growth followed by stagnation.

The decline would be characterised by increasingly inefficient state industries, already leading loss-makers in the national economy, and widening disparities in wealth between regions, country and city, and the sexes.

Poverty and rural migration would increase, with cities becoming "underboxes of tensions". Sustained government action was needed to avoid this scenario, the bank said.

Nicholas Hope, the bank's

For economists, the barometer is firmly set fair, Jonathan Mirsky writes

former Country Director for China, yesterday described East Asian corruption as "a cancer". He said the absence in China of clear definitions of ownership was an obstacle to foreign investment.

In its list of China's systemic problems, however, the bank offers no comment on the role of the party or the absence of democratic institutions. Yesterday the current Country Director for China, Yukon Huang, observed that the party is "a cohesive forum for debate", and Mr Hope noted the beginnings of what he called Chinese "village democracy".

In its more optimistic scenario for the country, the World Bank foresees a "competitive, caring and confident China" in which poverty will have been eliminated, according to Mr Huang. Mr Nehru anticipated an environmentally cleaner China with a functioning legal system. It would be the

Poverty will cease in the competitive, caring and confident nation

world's second largest trading nation, able to feed its population largely with its own resources but also buying food on the world markets. In the optimistic model, China would be fully integrated into the world economy, as a customer, supplier and investor, and with a "greater weight and voice in international institutions".

China's particular strengths, the World Bank observes, are its high rate of savings, its "pragmatic" reforms, a disciplined and relatively well-educated work force — and rich overseas Chinese who are eager to invest in the country of their ethnic and cultural origin.

Although women suffer discrimination, Mr Nehru said yesterday, their status was higher than in most other Third World countries. The report observes that education in China, while still limited for most people, is better than the Third World average.

UN warning on food crisis in North Korea

Kuala Lumpur: North Korea, hit by drought, tidal waves and floods, faces a shortage of 1.9 million tonnes of grain over the next year, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation said yesterday.

"We expect 700,000 [tonnes] should be provided through commercial means, but there would be a deficit of 1.2 million tonnes of grains, which would require international assistance," said Jacques Diouf, the FAO Director-General. World Vision, the American aid group, said this week that

between 500,000 and two million people had died from starvation in North Korea, although other experts doubt the figure is that high.

Pyongyang had appealed to the international community for seed, fertiliser, pesticides and heavy earth-moving equipment. M Diouf said.

In Seoul, the South Korean Red Cross said it would ship its last batch of 50,000 tonnes of relief, including 7,552 tonnes of flour, potatoes and powdered milk, to the North this month. (Reuters, AP)

News Release

NATWEST LAUNCHES ITS FIRST INTEREST-FREE LOAN TO GRADUATES

NatWest continues its initiative to offer students and graduates help and advice on how to manage their finances effectively.

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A robbery, a reporter – and somewhere a cellar full of masterpieces

The FBI think it knows who committed the US art theft of the century, but not where the pictures are hidden. However, a journalist may have the key, says Barry Wigmore

The rendezvous was in the small hours, when streets are empty and an FBI tail is easy to spot. A car picked up Tom Mashberg, a reporter for the *Boston Herald* newspaper, on a street corner and took him on a zigzagging route around the city, the driver nervously looking in his rear-view mirror all the time.

He whispered into a walkie-talkie radio to friends in a backup car who were making sure no one was in pursuit. Eventually, the car pulled up outside a warehouse in a rundown neighbourhood and Mashberg was quickly ushered in.

They went through a series of padlocked doors, each one opened by the rubber-gloved guide with keys from a large ring. What Mashberg saw by torchlight in the creaking warehouse that night could solve the mystery of America's art theft of the century. It has certainly had FBI men running round in circles, scratching their heads in frustration.

From a dusty tube the man in rubber gloves pulled what appeared to Mashberg's untold eye to be *Storm on the Sea of Galilee*, a Rembrandt. The painting is one of a dozen works by such artists as Vermeer, Manet and Degas that were stolen seven years ago from a Boston museum. The paintings have been valued by experts at anything from \$500 million up.



Connor Jr. master thief

With a flourish, the man pointed out Rembrandt's signature. "I was almost expecting a fanfare of trumpets, he was so proud of it," says Mashberg. Waving towards six or seven similar tubular containers packed in a large, dark canvas bag at the bottom of the storage bin, the man said: "That's the rest of them." But he did not offer to show any more.

Mashberg was hustled out of the warehouse, pushed into a waiting taxi that had been hailed by his guide's companions, and warned not to hang around or try following them. "We're moving the stuff right now, so it won't be here if you come back," said his guide. It was only the beginning of a bizarre story – not so much a whodunnit as a where-are-they-now, "To tell the truth," says Mashberg, a 37-year-old

investigative journalist. "I felt a little silly being caught up in the middle of all this cloak-and-dagger stuff." As the days unfolded, however, he realised he was a key player in a remarkable story of intrigue and double-dealing.

In the early hours of March 18, 1990, two men dressed as policemen forced their way into Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. They tied up the guards at gunpoint and in minutes cut the priceless paintings from their frames. The works included: *The Concert*, one of some 40 known works by Vermeer; two Rembrandts – the *Sea of Galilee* and *A Lady and a Gentleman in Black*; a Manet; five works by Degas; an oil on an oak panel by Govaert Flinck; and a Chinese bronze beaker from 1200 BC.

The FBI launched a huge search, enlisting through Interpol the art-theft squads of police forces in Britain, several other European countries, and Japan. The Gardner Museum put up a \$5 million reward.

Investigators deduced that a five-man gang had staged the robbery – the two who went inside, and three outside. Over the years they established that two Mafia hold-up artists, who are now dead, were members of the gang. They have been named in American papers as Robert Donat, a well-known Boston Mob enforcer, and David Houghton, a member of a gang of New



Clockwise, from left: *The Concert*, by Vermeer; *The Storm on the Sea of Galilee*, by Rembrandt; *Cher Torton*, by Manet; and Rembrandt's *A Lady and a Gentleman in Black*. The four paintings are part of a dozen works that were stolen from a Boston museum seven years ago

England art thieves in the 1950s and 1960s, famous as a trusted "stand-up guy" who kept his mouth shut whenever he was questioned by the police, which was often.

Houghton, it is believed, was the original keeper of the stolen works of art. But the trail went cold with his death, apparently from natural

causes. The FBI investigation stalled.

Two years ago the US Justice Department announced an amnesty, saying that the statute of limitations on the theft had run out and that, therefore, the thieves themselves – if they were found – could return them and claim the reward. No questions asked. But still there were no takers.

Until four months ago, that is, when Mashberg, hearing a whisper from one of his contacts, started digging around again. His inquiries led to William Youngworth, a Boston antiques dealer and a longtime friend of a well-known art thief, Myles Connor Jr.

Connor, 54, could not have been involved in the Gardner Museum theft, however. He was in jail at the time, in the seventh year of a ten-year sentence for drug trafficking. Sentencing Connor, the judge had told him: "You are an habitual criminal. Society doesn't like you, and in this court, I am society."

Connor is a master thief, specialising in art and antiques, says the FBI. His record includes a 1966 gun

apartment belonging to one of his friends and found the missing charter among a pile of Connor's papers.

Now it seems, with Youngworth as the go-between, he is trying the same ploy to get the last three years chopped off the sentence he is now serving.

Mashberg believes he is being used as a public messenger to pressure the authorities into doing a deal. On the day that his story about the warehouse visit was published, US marshals escorted Connor in handcuffs from an Illinois jail to Boston for the local FBI to question. He is still in custody in Boston, but with neither side trusting the other, negotiations have broken down. Youngworth has told the FBI

he can broker the return of the Gardner paintings. He and Connor want the \$5 million reward, and Connor wants to be set free. That could be a big problem, because the judge who jailed him would have to agree... and he obviously does not like Connor.

As a sign of good faith, Youngworth returned a small wax seal that was missing from the Charles I. charter when it was recovered. Police retaliated by raiding Youngworth's home and charging him with possession of unlicensed guns and a small amount of marijuana. He went into hiding in New York with his lawyer, protesting he was being harassed for trying to do a public service.

The FBI, who have spoken informally to Mashberg, believe Youngworth was his guide that night. Protected by

the First Amendment, and acting on the advice of his newspaper's lawyer, Mashberg can give only an embarrassed "no comment" to that question.

Can Connor deliver? Or is it all an elaborate hoax? Mashberg believes that because of the way he arrived at Youngworth's door, the painting he saw is genuine. "Why would he take such elaborate steps for a hoax?" he asks. "Even if a deal is done, no one's letting Connor out of jail until experts authenticate those paintings."

So, it seems, somewhere in a lock-up warehouse or a dark cellar in Boston today, the proceeds of the art theft of the century sit gathering dust. But perhaps not for long – Mashberg says he expects another exciting development next week.

► REWARDING TIMES ◀

PLAY PORTFOLIO £200,000 TO BE WON

£2,000 TO BE WON TODAY – TURN TO THE EQUITY PAGE 29

This week we launch new Portfolio, an exciting opportunity to play the stock market without getting your fingers burnt. You can win £2,000 a day six days a week in *The Times*, and you can play every Sunday in *The Sunday Times* to win £5,000. Better still, there is a £10,000 weekly prize, if you play Portfolio in both papers, seven days a week. Your gamecard was inserted in Tuesday's *Times* and another will be inserted on Monday, September 22. Playing Portfolio is easy and fun. Every week companies' share prices go up and down in the real world of the Stock Exchange. So you can experience the excitement of the stock market swings, but without taking any risks.

Yesterday's winners were: D Watts of Wrexham; A Rogers of Barking; and J Manning of Weston-Super-Mare. They won £667 each.

HOW TO PLAY

- On each individual Portfolio gamecard there are eight numbers printed in a grid. (See example, above)
- These numbers represent eight out of 44 companies listed on the Portfolio panel (see Equity Prices, page 29).
- The eight are your "Portfolio of Shares".
- The 44 companies are taken from the hundreds whose shares are listed on *The Times* Equity Prices page every day.
- Simply check the share price movement (+ or -) of your eight Portfolio shares.
- When you have checked all eight share movements and entered them on to the Portfolio panel on page 29,

THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES

Portfolio

1728008	10	14	15	29	73734081
	35	37	38	39	

add them up to obtain your plus or minus total.

- When adding up your total, ignore fractions, ie enter 16½ as 16 (the symbol ... equals no change).
- If your overall total exactly matches the points required in the Daily Portfolio Dividend, printed on the Portfolio panel on page 29, you win or share the £2,000 daily prize.

WEEKLY ACCUMULATOR GAME

The weekly accumulator game starts in *The Times* on Monday, September 22. To play the weekly accumulator game you simply add up your daily Portfolio totals, Monday to Sunday. If your accumulator total matches exactly the weekly portfolio accumulator dividend, published in the *The Sunday Times*, you win or share the weekly accumulator prize of £10,000.

HOW TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE

Claims for *The Times* daily Portfolio dividend must be made to the Portfolio claims line on 0171-481 3388 between 9.30am and 3pm today. No claims can be accepted outside these hours and you must claim your prize the day you win. You must have your card with you when you claim. Other persons can claim on your behalf provided they have your card. No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the stated hours. In the event of more than one valid claim for any prize, that prize will be divided equally among the winners.

*You can get a Portfolio card by calling the card request line on 0171-481 3385 during normal office hours. There will be another gamecard in *The Times* on Monday, September 22, and cards are also available at selected newsagents.

With a flourish he pointed at the artist's signature

battle with police in which an officer was critically wounded as they moved in on the stolen goods from another museum robbery. Connor was jailed for six years.

Of supreme relevance to the Gardner theft is a deal that Connor struck with prosecutors in 1975. In court accused of stealing Andrew Wyeth paintings from a Maine mansion, he pleaded guilty, but escaped a jail sentence by telling police where to find a \$5 million Rembrandt that had been stolen from the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

The FBI now believes that Connor organised the Rembrandt theft to use as a bargaining chip to get out of jail. They also believe that he masterminded another theft when he faced a murder charge in 1985. A few months before the trial, the first page of the 350-year-old Royal Charter issued by King Charles I to Boston's colonial founders disappeared from the Massachusetts state archives.

Connor jumped bail while the jury was deliberating. He was found not guilty anyway. A week later police raided an

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Philip Howard



■ God save us, enfants de la patrie, from the politically correct anthem

The best national anthems are chauvinist, xenophobic and bloodthirsty. Take them for all in all, you cannot give them high marks for poetry or ethics. So Yannick Noah, the sexy black French tennis star, ought to be on a good thing with his sanitised rap words for the *Marseillaise*. And he is reported to be selling a lot of discs of his single *Oh Réve, Oh Dream, Citoyens*. Let us at last form a union, *Vivons, Vivons*. Get a Life, Get a Life, *Liberté et Fraternité*. Noah's shift of message from arms to dreams is impeccably wet and supposedly in tune with youth. The original words of the *Marseillaise*, composed overnight as a marching song for the French armies, drip with gore and glory. "May the filthy blood of our enemies drench our fields." *Entendez-vous, dans les campagnes, Mûgissent ces farouches soldats* seems too strong for *The New Encyclopaedia Britannica*, which mistranslates the lines as plunkingly as Moleworth, the curse of St Custard's: "Come together in the countryside! To lower these savage soldiers." Savage aliens cutting the throats of our sons are off message, out of touch and old Labour in this day 'n' age. Noah's version is modern, caring.

But it does not have a hope in hell of replacing the *Marseillaise*. Forget that tolerance and peace are not the French virtues that come first to mind. Remember *The Toys of Peace*, the story by "Saki". Progressive parents give their children pacifist toy role models from the caring professions. And the children mutilate them into models of war and glory. Blood and battles appeal to the basic instincts of children and national anthems at play. Pious national anthems are dire. Once it decided to drop *God Save the Queen*, Australia should have adopted *Waltzing Matilda*, which chants the chippy wistfulness and wit of the country, with a tune that we all know. *Advance, Australia Fair* is AWFUL, and deludes Australian children that "girt" is a usable grown-up word. *O Canada! Our home and native land!* wins minus marks for weedy sentiments and nuls points for its send-for-the sick-bag stalwart sons and gentle maidens. India has fine words by Tagore, but they are in Bengali and so inaccessible to most Indians.

The national anthems that bring tears to the eyes, even of aliens, express primitive and violent emotions. First equal come the *Marseillaise* and *The Star-Spangled Banner*, which commemorates an obscure engagement in a small war that solved nothing. The words are absurd melodrama. "No refuge could save the hireling and slave! From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave." But let no wizz-kid advertising poet rewrite the words with clever soundbites about Great Societies or Contracts with America. *The Internationale* and *Deutschland über Alles* were brilliant (international) anthems. The Devil does have some of the best tunes, and a fine national anthem does not necessarily signal that it praises a country anybody would choose to live in.

And as for our dear old *God Save the Queen*, it is not as dreary as it can sound. Its words go back to the Coddale version of the Old Testament and Uddall's play (c. 1540), *Ralph Roister Doister*, and its tune to Purcell and medieval galliards. Parry's setting of Blake's *Jerusalem*, the most popular wedding hymn of the summer, has more rousing music. It starts with four questions to which the answer is "no". I have heard a dotty theory that its "dark Satanic Mills" refer to Utilitarians James and John Stuart. The words of *Rule Britannia* are always sung wrong. The chorus is the only part that we all know. And when called upon, we make the confident but unauthorised statement that the old girl rules the waves, instead of singing the poet's stern advice or nowadays wistful command, "Britannia, rule the waves!"

But *God Save the Queen*, when performed to the proper tempi laid down by George V and formalised in an Army Order, can still make the hair bristle. The crowd at Wembley for England's match against Moldova sang it as a tribal war song. Attempts to change its references to the knavish tricks of enemies to more compassion and caring must and will be resisted.



Heavenwards to hell

For the true mountaineer, fear is enjoyable. That is how I discovered, high in the Andes, that I wasn't one

Never let your daughter marry a mountaineer. Serious climbers are seriously weird folk. They are also possessed of an almost unbelievable fortitude. Just how weird, and just how formidable, I have had the chance to discover, climbing this summer in Bolivia.

"We found this Basque," said Yossi to us. "He had been there about a year. The condors had left him in kit form."

"Kit form?" I queried. "Kit form. Just bones held together by GorTex. Nice outfit. We buried him there and I got a photo sent to the parents. Apparently they were quite touched. Don't think me unfeeling."

Yossi Brain, despite the exotic name, comes originally from Walsall. With two books to his name (*Trekking in Bolivia* and *Bolivia: a climbing guide*, both published by The Mountaineers), he has settled in La Paz and guides and organises expeditions in the Andes. Breaking with Fleet Street tradition, I paid for mine myself, so I can be as rude about Yossi as I like, but the truth is that as a guide he is a total professional and we felt completely safe in his hands. As a human being, however, Yossi is... well, possessed. "There's about 30 more peaks over there to the south," he gestured. "I reckon I could knock most of them off in a year or so." We looked out over a frozen sea of rocks, needing some 20,000ft into the sky, and wondered why that knowledge that one had not climbed them could inspire anything other than a profound sense of relief. "Then there's the complete circuit of Illimani. I've got to put in some work on that. And of course the eastern face."

Pardon me, but why the eastern face? The eastern face looks positively homicidal. What was wrong with the western face, the easiest way up?

It was the easy way up Illimani that Yossi took my party and me. But he insisted first that we went on a preliminary trip to Condoriri, a few thousand feet lower, to learn the use of the ice axe, crampons and the climbing rope. Here we were caught in a blizzard, and I managed to fall down a crevasse, providing for the group a lively demonstration of why being roped together and carrying ice axes saves your life. Back at camp, Yossi pointed up at a peak. Cabeza del Condor, shaped rather like Nelson's Column. "There's a German up there, somewhere," he remarked, idly. I knew him well enough

by now to know he meant a dead German.

For the ascent of the great Illimani itself (about whose summit *The Times Atlas* is a little generous but which is, in fact, just under 21,500ft), we were now well trained and prepared. Climbing manuals have the cheek to describe this as "peu difficile", but be assured that above 20,000ft, climbing into bed, let alone up a peak in a gale, would be ruddy difficult. You can't breathe.

Ten thousand feet lower, in La Paz, we set out, breathing easily, in a Toyota Land Cruiser. Passing the suburbs I noticed a dog wearing a ribbon round its

"Ah, pioneered by Chileans" I said, brightly.

"No, six fell off in 1989," he replied. "Tomorrow we practise crampons and harness on the grass here, so that you don't."

Nido de Condor was some 3,000ft up the ridge, a courtyard-sized snow ledge on the rock. Yossi produced the chocolate, of which he had a seemingly unending supply, the meal which he and his comrade, the ever-cheerful Archie, always managed to contrive, and we slept — as best you can when to turn over in your sleeping bag leaves you panting. I kept awaking, fighting a sort

Matthew Parris

of porridge and hot chocolate out of somewhere, though at that height water boils too cool to take the glue out of oats. I used a toothbrush to eat it with when I forgot my spoon. Said Yossi: "You can clean your teeth at the same time." It took an age to get the gear on. I resolved to stick to pursuits where the accoutrements do not outweigh the human.

And off we trudged. Who can describe the wretched satisfaction of an iron will, a slow plod and a grim resolve to think of nothing but the next fifty feet? You get a sort of rhythm: miserable, yet strangely comforting. You watch the rope in front of you, lest it slacken, and feel the rope behind, lest it grow taut. Somehow you look back down — a black vastness at your heels, as though the world has fallen into a hole behind you. Somehow you look up. So many stars! The snow around you feels like a flying carpet in space, baseless, dropping away on all sides should you stumble. And so hard to breathe.

Very, very slowly, the sky began to tinge with light. Huge glaciers, ice and

rock walls, supernatural shapes and colours, loomed out of the dawn. And still each sickening climb, stumbling and ice-axing our way up each slope, seemed to yield to yet another beyond it.

The air had been utterly still. As we clawed our way up into the morning, we saw a distant slope — surely the last? — and edged with sun. There we would reach the sunny side of the mountain. It became a sort of heaven we must eventually reach. All at once we did. Emerging, gasping at the top of the ridge, the sun hit our faces. That decorative plume of what had looked like frozen cloud curving from the ridge was a 40mph wind rushing up from the eastern — Amazon — side of Illimani, whipping snow and ice particles with it. My goggles frosted up inside. When I laboured to take off a mitten to clear them, my fingers went dead. "Frostbite in January, amputate in June," said Yossi cheerfully, as he helped me back into cover. I turned to face the sun and its ice slipstream again. The light was a blinding yellow as the flying ice blasted and stung. The strangest combination of sensations.

To my friends and me, surviving the next half hour was the dominating ambition. But Yossi knew this climb backwards and had already moved on in his mind. He had a couple of volcanoes in Ecuador to knock off. There are 99 summits in the Andes higher than 6,000 metres. Perhaps we shall one day speak of "Yossis" as they speak of Munroes. "Shall we stroll on a bit, then?" he asked us. As he had already started to stroll, and we were all tied to him by a rope, the question was rhetorical. Slaves being led in chains to the waiting gallows must have felt like this.

It was only another 800 yards along that ridge, but it felt like an eternity. The ridge narrowed. Falling away at our feet was Bolivia, Chile and the Pacific to our right. To our left, miles beneath, the stormclouds of the Amazon basin frothed and boiled in an extravagant show of agitated cumulus. We all but crawled the last hundred yards to the highest point on the ridge: a bathroom-sized cockpit on the roof of South America, sheer drops on three sides.

"This is terrifying," moaned Louis. "Shut up and enjoy the fear," said Yossi. I think that is what separates us. I think a true mountaineer just wants to do more and more difficult things, until he dies.

Blair is now the kingmaker

Crown and Church are leaning Left, says John Lloyd

Tony Blair has been spending time dabbling in the mysteries of the State — Crown and Church. He had not meant so, but he feels he must. And in doing so, he shows us how frail and yet necessary these institutions are. Both the monarchy and the Church had gone over, in their different ways, to Labour. Both the Prince of Wales now, and Diana, Princess of Wales, in her life, found new Labour's posture of concern without socialism amenable to their own public discourse, and both drifted into Blair's orbit.

The Church is more obviously radical. The most active and public bishops turned to the Left and social policy has become increasingly pro-interventionist, as the Church's recent report, *Unemployment and the Future of Work* confirms. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, gave the most leftist of the major speeches at the TUC last week; his clergy's experience is one of need and want, which their archbishop distilled into a rhetoric recalling the easy certainties of Tony Benn: "If we choose to run the economy so that it can create more jobs, we can do so."

The Crown and Church came over to Labour because the ground on which they stood — consensus, harmony, care for the underdog, charitable activity — was, or seemed to be, narrowed by a governing Right which emphasised the purity of market outcome. But they also have done so because they are in crisis... they have lost the faith, and they need to be saved.

The Crown and the Church are deeply exhausted. The slicing away of the public dignity of both institutions has been both careless and relentless. But the media have been able to feed off the bodies of the two institutions only because they sense the death at their cores. That death is centuries old. Divine Right and the certainty that Christ revealed the truth of God were shaken out of the intelligentsia and much of the political class by the 18th or 19th centuries. Since then we have lived with the melancholy roar of faith's withdrawal, as both institutions make the kind of brilliant displays of form to disguise ebbing content which befit a nation whose literary patron saint is the greatest creator of fantasies in the world.

New Labour has inherited these twin institutions in decline and typically thinks it can Do Something About It. It had the crisis of the monarchy thrust upon it because of the death of Diana. Having made its usual dispassionate reading of the public mood — and being confirmed in its view that the monarchy is here to stay by the Left's fantasy that the response to Diana's death meant it was on the way out — its leader is using his authority with Prince Charles to bring forth a Modern Monarchy. Charles is presently Blair's creature; he depends utterly on the Prime Minister to point him to a path at once demotic and dignified, caring but charismatic, warm but Windsor... and so on, through all the familiar New Labour antinomies.

It is likely he will succeed. Lacking a republican mood, and with the support of the Government, the Palace should be amenable to being bumped into this millennial version of modernity — having modernised successfully enough to retain its existence, wealth and privileges for centuries. One of the two main absurdities in Earl Spencer's speech was that Diana did not require a royal connection to attain her lustre in life (the other was that she inhabited a different moral universe from the tabloids); in fact, she acquired such lustre largely from the worldwide recognition of the British Royal Family.

This points up something which was not so evident before her death. The royals have at least partly made the transition to international super-celebrity status; Diana was their creation more than she was her own. In becoming contemporary superstars, the Windsors have secured a new place for themselves in the media galaxy — but it is one which requires careful media management of focus groups, media consultants and rebuttal units. Even if the Prime Minister wanted to abolish them, he probably could not.

The Church is at once sadder and wiser. It has no great media lustre even in this country; but some of its priests and bishops are intellectually and morally impressive. It lacks faith, however — except on its evangelical wing, whose semi-fundamentalist enthusiasm cannot stand the test of reason. It has not been able to develop a working model of a faith in which rational people could wholeheartedly believe.

Modernisation thus means sharing up. It means recognising that the Church's ritual is essential for State occasions and is often desired for the private last things. Having recognised that is essential, Blair has moved to try to make sure it is useful, that it does uncontroversial good works, takes part in its efforts to knit together communities and gives ethical support to the family. From having been the Tory party at prayer, it is being shaped as the Labour Party in the community.

There will be no republic, no disestablishment; this was true of New Labour before Diana's death and is even more true of it after. One can sense a rhetorical trope being readied: "The Crown and the Church have served Britain well in the past and can, too, in the future."

New Labour will see to it that they do. John Lloyd is associate editor of the New Statesman.

Game show

CHARLES SPENCER, from the well of grief, stung the Royal Family. Now he has turned his sights on a different blood sport — big-game hunting. He is to present a cinematic debate on the thorny subject of blood sports.

The programme, *Cruel to be Kind*, has been entered in a television festival in Cannes, where it will be screened for the first time next week.

This is the first of a series of the earl to present on "world ethical issues". His debut, a half-hour exploration, will blast the ethics of game-hunting in South Africa, where he moved last year to escape the cheetah prints.

Althorp, the family seat, is a renowned shooting estate, and with his experience as a presenter on American television he was considered the ideal candidate.

I am delighted for the earl, who has displayed such dignity in the face of his sister's death, despite facing the trauma of his wife Victoria filing for divorce in Cape Town last week.

Blood sports are a tricky issue for the Spencers. Although brought up in the accepting atmosphere of the aristocracy, Diana, Princess of Wales, developed ambivalent feelings towards hunting. Spencer's views are equally

complex. "He's against it on principle, but understands that a lot of revenue is generated," says a colleague. The earl's solution? Shooting elephant and buffalo with paintballs.

● It was long into the night that Robin Cook sat at his desk in Carlton Gardens. The telephone rang from an outer office. Realising that his secretary had left, the Foreign Secretary answered. He was met by the unmis-



There goes Wee Willie speaking his mind again

takable tones of a Tory lady: "Is Douglas there?"

Cult status

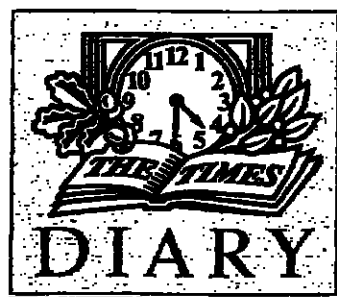
A POSTER advertising the new Oasis single, *Stand by Me*, has just gone on display. It features a photograph of a Moonie wedding blessing in Korea, at which 360,000 couples were married.

The Moonies are threatening to sue, claiming breach of copyright. Meanwhile, associates of the Gallagher boys are speculating privately that the rock star brothers might be on the verge of converting. Born Roman Catholics (they are working-class Mancunians), they once suggested that they were "bigger than God".

● TWO decades after Sir Edward Heath was commissioned to write his autobiography, he has submitted the first chapter. The book's title? *The Last Laugh*. Surely not a reference to his outliving a certain baroness?

Everybody out

THERE can be few hotels grand enough to satisfy the discerning tastes of your average union baron. Take John Edmonds, general



secretary of the GMB. During the TUC conference in Brighton last week he stomped out of the hotel after an altercation with the joint's receptionist.

Problem. He, and other senior union bods, were due to stay there for the Labour conference. But in a fit of anger, Edmonds cancelled. And now they are homeless. "Every bedroom from Brighton to Hove is booked," says a mole. "It looks like they'll be shacking up in B&Bs in Worthing." So who says unions have been marginalised?

Howard's end

JACK STRAW, while clearly welcoming his predecessor's policies, is less sure about his taste in art. He is chucking out Michael Howard's gloomy paintings in favour of works by convicts.

"They don't exactly light up the room," says a Straw crony of Howard's collection, which is

dominated by dark oils of famous battle scenes. The less militaristic Straw will make his choice from displays at the Koestler Foundation, which encourages prisoners to explore their creative (ie, non-psychopathic) sides.

● SOME learn arithmetic and the difference between right and wrong at school. Our Education Secretary, David Blunkett, learnt revolution. He tells *The Times Educational Supplement*: "When we had sausages four times in a week I led a delegation to the head and said that if the staff could eat rump steak, then a diet of sausages was unacceptable." In revenge for such major slights we were given socialism.

Sour note

RUMBLINGS of religious dissent pervade the Elizabethan galleries of Sudley Castle in Gloucestershire. The pad's owner, Henry Dent Brocklehurst, 31, has alarmed his local vicar by suggesting that his forthcoming wedding service should have a Hawaiian theme.

Inspiration for this comes from his talented young fiancée Lili Maltese, who hails from that enchanting outpost. "We are having a Hawaiian wedding party so it would be silly to have an English service," says Miss Maltese, who is to write the words to the service,

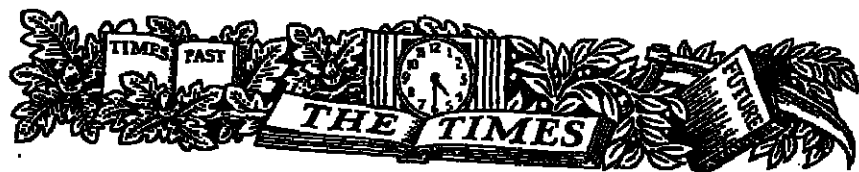


In tune: Henry and Lili

to be held in Sudley's chapel next May. "I'd like to write something more warm and informal, more about love and less about obeying. But our vicar is being so funny about it — he doesn't seem keen on the idea at all."

Indeed he is not. "I couldn't possibly do it, it would not be legal," rumbles the Rev Michael Page. "They would have to formalise it in a register office."

P.H.S



DEATH IN CAIRO

The difficult journey to peace and tolerance in Egypt

Egyptians will have been as shocked and angered as were Germans and other foreigners by yesterday's petrol bomb attack on a tourist bus parked outside the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities in the heart of Cairo. Nothing has done more to discredit Islamist extremism in Egypt than the campaign, begun in 1992 by the terrorist group al-Gamaa al-Islamiya, to bring down the Government by hitting the tourist industry. Thousands of Egyptians depend on tourism for a living, and public hostility has been a key weapon in the Government's struggle to stamp out armed militancy.

Yesterday's heavy toll of dead and injured should not obscure the extent of its success. Tourism has largely recovered since 1994 because, although the violent incidents against foreigners that have killed 35 and injured around 80 since 1992 continue, such attacks are now rare enough to make Egypt a holiday destination rather than a place of the Government's recent claims to have beaten back terrorist activity to a few provincial pockets of southern Egypt. But it is probably true that, after a five-year campaign in which more than a thousand Egyptians — mainly police, officials, Coptic Christians and liberal intellectuals — have been murdered, the overall threat from Islamist fanatics has been sharply reduced.

The Government's ruthless defence of the security of the State is justified by the tactics employed against it; but so broad has been its assault on Islamist opposition that the price in civil liberties has been high. The Egyptian Organisation of Human Rights puts the number held under emergency laws that permit lengthy detention without trial at 17,000. Caught in the net along with terrorists are non-violent advocates of an Islamist theocracy and too many of those whose lawful expressions of political opposition should find outlets in a confident society.

Some international criticism of Egypt's record has been facile. When Islamist litigants use the courts to hound such distinguished Muslim scholars as Dr Nasr Abu Zaid for their tolerant interpretation of

Islam, and when Islamist academics at Al-Azhar, the leading Islamic university, have issued *fatwas* against "blasphemous" writers, the concept of "non-violence" is itself qualified. In a radicalised environment, it is not easy to find ways for political opposition and for free speech to function effectively without these avenues being abused for anti-democratic ends. President Mubarak, who has himself narrowly escaped assassination, has solid reasons for caution.

But if the Government is correct that Islamist extremism now exercises less fascination than it did for Egypt's generally tolerant people, then this is the time to relax unreasonable constraints on political and press activity. Market reforms have released the economy from the doldrums and growth of more than 5 per cent a year is expanding job opportunities and hope. Rising, though still uneven, prosperity has been matched by an astute and overdue doubling of spending on social services. But political aspirations tend to rise with prosperity, and that challenge too requires a response.

Blatant government manipulation of elections is counter-productive. It engenders cynicism about the political process, demonstrated in the disturbingly low turnout in local elections earlier this year. So is the use of press restrictions to suppress investigations of official corruption. Police and military operations may be the first line of defence against Islamist extremists but openness to political change and debate is the equally important second line.

Egyptian secularism has to find space for the undoubtedly more devoutly Muslim society that Egypt has become; and the Mubarak regime, many of whose most powerful figures have been in power for more than two decades, has to make room for a new political generation. Economically, Egypt is modernising rapidly, but it is politically stagnant. Broader trust in the political leadership is needed to consolidate a victory that must still be judged provisional. Immobility at the top is not healthy. In still waters, Egyptians well know, mosquitos breed.

BEYOND SHAME

Solid ways to help those cheated by the pensions industry

The indefatigable Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, was out "naming and shaming" again yesterday, putting pressure on pensions companies to compensate customers to whom they had mis-sold personal pensions. Unfortunately the scolding seems to have had remarkably little effect. The worst of the companies are still behaving like recalcitrant children who pretend deafness at the sound of a parental admonition.

Yet it is in the interests both of the pensions companies and of the Government that this mis-selling be rectified as quickly and efficiently as possible. The companies are likely to win substantial business from Labour's reform of the welfare state: as stakeholder pensions, insurance for long-term care, and insurance against illness become matters for the private sector rather than the State, the pickings will be rich. But only those companies that have proved their probity will be sanctioned by the State and trusted by the public.

The pensions providers claim that their dishonesty is not deliberate: they have found it hard to obtain enough details from their customers' former occupational schemes to calculate whether or not the personal pensions sold were bad value. Thinking laterally, a small group of companies led by Legal & General has taken a different approach: offering customers a guarantee, underwritten by a legal indemnity, that if their personal pensions on retirement are worth less than they would have been in the occupational scheme, they will be paid the difference.

This is a far more sensible approach. As long as the guarantees are legally backed, they offer peace of mind to worried

pensionholders. Some will be happy to accept the guarantee in lieu of compensation now. Others should be allowed to rely upon the guarantee as an interim measure until their individual cases are settled.

Mrs Liddell should encourage these guarantees as an industry-wide standard. She should also turn her mind to longer-term reform of the selling of financial products. It seems extraordinary that salesmen are still allowed to work on commission in this arcane and complex field. Their incentive is to sell as many products as possible: customers are rarely in a position to challenge their advice. Even now, companies such as the Prudential advertise for salesmen claiming that, on earnings, "the sky's the limit". This is only likely to be true if some people are sold products they do not need or cannot afford.

This is not a business in which "caveat emptor" applies. As in medicine, customers are totally reliant on the advice that they receive from an expert. They need to be able to trust that expert, to be confident that the advice is in their interests alone. Even independent financial advisers cannot be relied upon to give the best guidance: they too earn commission from any sales they make, and will always be tempted to recommend the product that pays them the most.

If the public is to learn to trust this sector again, there is only one solution. Salesmen who work for companies should be paid salaries, not commission. Independent advisers should charge fees for consultation, as accountants do, but receive no reward from the products they recommend. Otherwise, the Government's welfare reforms will be in danger of being undermined by the reputation of its new providers.

I SPY WHAT I EAT

Revealed: the link between espionage and Escoffier

The best recipes, like the best intelligence, are closely guarded secrets. A sous-chef at a fashionable brasserie in St Germain des Près would be as horrified as the most discreet MI6 controller to be asked to identify his sauces.

And when the bubbly niece of a grand society hostess is cajoled by a jealous rival to part with the secret ingredients of that legendary soufflé, the political bombshell is as devastating as the discovery of a double agent at the very heart of Whitehall. No wonder, therefore, that spies and cooks have so much in common. No wonder that the culinary arts are merely a more decorative and visible manifestation of the black arts of espionage.

Harry Palmer, the determinedly mun-dane Cockney who brought espionage out of the cold in the 1960s, was always cooking. His speciality was scrambled eggs — a recipe, perhaps, of the obsession at the "office" for scrambling everything (though poaching secrets was also part of the spy's routine).

George Smiley also enjoyed a good meal, though since his days in Germany he had little time to cook for himself: culinary pleasures were limited to what was on offer at the

Nineties seem to spend as much time in the kitchen as in the satellite imaging lab.

How satisfying, therefore, to find real spies copying — as is their wont — their celluloid portrayals. The CIA, as part of its 50th anniversary celebrations, has just published a cookbook, with recipes and comments by a few former agents and spouses, including Barbara Bush — said to make a terrific apple pie — and Julia Child, once a file clerk for the Office of Strategic Studies who found the transition from fingering secrets to fingering pastry all too easy. The "Company" apparently encouraged an interest in cuisine. It relieved stress, satisfied the professional need to roast, baste and grill and gave spies a safe topic of conversation when every other subject was taboo. Even the weather can lead to dangerous discussion of cold fronts, satellites and computer forecasts.

Markus Wolf, the East German spy chief, was also a dab hand in the kitchen, though his book, *Secrets of Russian Cuisine*, does seem a rather uncomradely spilling of the Kremlin's beans. He probably recruited as many cooks to be spies as vice-versa. CIA agents must spend years of their lives in restaurants: let us hope their recipes are not as bland as their table talk.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Setting priorities on road safety

From Sir Norman Fowler, MP for Sutton Coldfield (Conservative)

Sir, I welcome the Government's statement that it intends to make action against speeding a priority in road safety policy (report, September 16). I doubt, however, if advertising alone will substantially reduce the toll of deaths and serious injuries caused by speeding.

The most urgent need is to ensure that speed limits are enforced. As everyone knows, limits are currently widely ignored. The action that would have most immediate effect would be to extend the use of speed cameras throughout Britain.

In 1992 a very successful demonstration project in West London showed that as a result of the use of cameras fatal accidents were reduced by 70 per cent and serious accidents were reduced by 28 per cent.

A report published by the Police Research Group in 1996 compared the costs of installing and operating speed cameras with the reduction in accident costs and income from fines. The result was that speed cameras generated a return of five times the cost of the investment after one year — and more than 25 times the amount after five years.

In the light of this evidence I would urge the Government to take immediate action to extend speed cameras.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN FOWLER
(Chief Opposition Spokesman for Environment, Transport and the Regions),
House of Commons,
September 17.

From Mr Geoffrey Bloom, JP

Sir, I was startled by your report today that the Government wants major police resources and manpower diverted to catching motorists travelling at as little as 35mph in a 30mph area.

Of course every life lost in a road accident is a tragedy, but the proposal contrasts markedly with your report in the same issue that the death toll from infection in hospitals "is responsible for at least 5,000 deaths a year". Moreover, hospital deaths appear to be on a rising trend, while road fatalities have been falling for many years.

The proposed diversion of police effort into stopping speeding offences also seems inappropriate when one reads, also in the same issue, of Scotland Yard's report on the gross ineffectiveness of its own detectives, deeming them likely to be "lacking in knowledge and investigative skills".

Both as a consumer of police services and as a magistrate, it seems to me that the case for an expensive campaign against speeding motorists has not been made out. Certainly, we must all drive at a safe and appropriate speed; but instead of stigmatising normally law-abiding people for what is often a minor transgression, I would suggest that the police and the Government might better concentrate their resources respectively on combating serious crime and eradicating hospital infections.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY BLOOM,
5 Maytrees, Loom Lane,
Radlett, Hertfordshire,
September 16.

From the Director of the Pedestrians Association

Sir, You quite rightly gave front-page coverage to the Home Secretary's announcement that cracking down on speeding will be made a new police priority from November. Such a shift in policing priorities is no less welcome for being long overdue.

It has been estimated that road deaths cost the economy over £3 billion a year. Add to this the distress caused to those bereaved and the additional costs of road crashes and you have a huge social and economic problem still inadequately addressed.

But deaths and injuries on the road are only the most stark result of speeding traffic. Excessive traffic speeds blight residential areas, prevent children walking to school, deter adults from walking and cycling and detract generally from the quality of life.

The police have a central role in enforcing speed limits and other aspects of road traffic law. With their assistance, and the widespread use of speed cameras (financed by charges levied on convicted drivers), speeding should in due course come to be seen as the inherently anti-social activity that it is.

Yours faithfully,

BEN PLOWDEN,
Director,
The Pedestrians Association,
126 Aldersgate Street, EC1,
September 16.

From Mr David Willett

Sir, I applaud the Government's initiative on speeding drivers. However, I have never, in 28 years of driving, understood why "reminder" signs are so few and far between in 30mph zones, when in 40 and 50mph zones, or even in declassified areas, they are usually thick on the ground.

This to me makes no sense. It is in 30mph zones, which are usually the most critical and distracting areas in which to drive, that we all need reminding.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID WILLETT,
Ewness Farmhouse,
Bridgnorth, Shropshire,
david.willet@btinternet.com
September 17.

Sensations of unease, admiration and doubt at the RA

From Mr Michael A. C. Buckley

Sir, Sensation. What an apt title for the exhibition at the Royal Academy (report, leading article and letters, September 18).

Whilst I certainly did not like all the pieces on show, this body of work is filled with energy, vitality, irreverence and challenging and different ideas. Although many pieces deal with death in one form or another, the overriding impression is of a huge celebration of life. I expected to dislike the painting of Myra Hindley but found it extraordinary and appropriately arresting.

Charles Saatchi has put together a collection which should interest anyone who is curious and inquisitive. Being offended is sometimes an improvement on being complacent or dismissive.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL BUCKLEY,
9 West Halkin Street, SW1,
September 18.

From the Right Reverend Lord Habgood

Sir, "There is no such thing as real art that is immoral," so the Royal Academy informed us in yesterday's Times. I suppose it all depends on what is meant by "real". But members of that Academy might usefully have another look at *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, in which as unlikely a character as Oscar Wilde set out to show that aestheticism without morality can be demonic.

Do we really have to go back and learn that lesson all over again?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HASGOOD,
18 The Mount,
Malton, North Yorkshire,
September 18.

Aerospace industry funding appeal

From the Director General of The Society of British Aerospace Companies Ltd

Sir, "Only those companies and countries that have high levels of investment in skills and technologies... will succeed," Margaret Beckett, the Cabinet Minister responsible for science, told members of the British Association (report, September 9). She is perfectly correct.

The UK aerospace industry has consistently made a positive contribution to the country's balance of payments — averaging £2 billion a year over the last decade, rising to £2.9 billion in 1996 — and 14 per cent of its workforce is employed full-time on research and development activities. Yet in 1995, while £660 million was invested by the private sector on aerospace research and experimental development, the Government contributed only £220 million, some 25 per cent of the total spend.

For UK companies to remain competitive and continue to be successful in the global aerospace market, a review of the Government's financial input is urgently needed. By contrast, the US industry, which dominates the global aerospace market, receives 62 per cent of its research and develop-

ment funding from federal Government.

The aerospace industry has devised a national strategy for growth called "Foresight Action", aimed at increasing competitiveness and developing innovative products, capabilities and processes which can be demonstrated to prospective customers as proven, saleable products.

If aerospace is to flourish as a national asset and continue to be a major contributor to the economy, this programme has to be a partnership between industry and Government.

We are currently pressing for a re-allocation of public funds in favour of research and technology demonstration. We have made it clear that the industry will find its share of the cost; but without a fuller contribution from Government the Foresight Action strategy will fail to make a significant difference to the UK's aerospace performance.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MARSHALL,
Director General,
The Society of British Aerospace Companies Ltd,
Duxbury House,
60 Petty France, Victoria, SW1,
September 11.

Yours faithfully,
HELEN GLEW,
43 Hopkins Close,
Bournemouth, Dorset,
September 17.

with Mr Brison's analogy. Are we incapable, any more, of making the important distinction between what lies at the transitory, "car boot sale" extreme of art — attractive though it might be to some — and that which endures for reasons and qualities beyond the spurious and meretricious?

Let some continue to believe that the Emperor is wearing new clothes. But I'm not convinced.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN PITLUCK,
Hillside Cottage, 62 Dunmow Road,
Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire,
September 18.

From Mr R. Hawdon

Sir, Thank you Simon Jenkins (article, September 13) for debunking the nonsense of modern sensationalist "art". The reply to supporters of such banal rubbish is that almost any great artist of the past could have conceived almost any of the pieces today trumped up as art within ten minutes. Scarcely any of today's artists could have achieved any of their creations in a hundred years.

Yours faithfully,
R. HAWDON,
Ashlands, Belmont Road, Bath,
September 13.

From Mrs H. M. Glew

Sir, The Royal Academy of Arts says that "There is no such thing as real art that is immoral", thus proving what the rest of us have always known: if it is immoral it is not art.

Yours faithfully,
HELEN GLEW,
43 Hopkins Close,
Bournemouth, Dorset,
September 17.

'Sneak's hotline'

From Mr William J. Woodward

Sir, Ofsted's inspectors having failed to identify sufficient failing teachers, your report ("Parents are given a sneak's hotline", September 11) that parents are now to be encouraged to telephone details of teachers' and schools' failings directly to the Department for Education and Employment, bypassing the local education authorities.

Is it not time for teachers to start campaigning for the establishment of "Ofstop" (The Office for Standards of Parenting), so that they can report violent, disruptive and unresponsive pupils directly to this body, bypassing LEA educational psychologists and the social services?

Yours etc,
W. J. WOODWARD,
Kaaan,
High Easter Road,
Leaden Roding, Dunmow, Essex.
bill_woodward@classic.msn.com
September 17.

From Mr Howard Hayer

Sir, This hotline is surely another indication of the Government introducing a "sneaky" society. We already have a hotline to the DSS for reporting illegal claimants.

I was always taught not to tell tales at school, and that we must not allow this country to emulate the activities of certain dictatorships where the only way of maintaining discipline was to report on one's neighbours.

Do we really need this? It is certainly a dangerous development, and not British.

Yours sincerely,
HOWARD HAYER,
Alcheywood Farm,
Broadwoodleigh, Winkleigh, Devon,
September 12.

From Mrs Louise Burke

Sir, Will the Government also set up a hotline so that parents can report on good teaching practice?

Yours faithfully,
LOUISE BURKE,
10 Grosvenor Drive,
Swindon, Wiltshire,
September 11.

PM's salary

From Mrs S. Jackson

Sir, Tony Blair may be able to afford to forgo a pay increase when his income is supplemented by the high earnings of a QC (report, September 17). But is it fair of him to expect others to take his lead when they may not be as fortunate?

Yours faithfully,

SERENA JACKSON,
7 Hill View Cottages,
Churchill, Oxfordshire,
September 17.

The Booker booked

From Mr John O'Byrne

Sir, Now that the season of "Booker" is upon us (report, September 16) how about some enterprising first-time novelist attempting a grand theme on the prize itself?

The ingredients could include obsession, thwarted ambition, rejection, loss, disillusionment, and some damn close-run things. But what should be the title?

Yours literarily,

JOHN O'BRYNE,
2 Mount Argus Court,
Harold's Cross, Dublin,
September 16.

Jobs count

From the Minister for Employment

Sir, Your City Commentary today ("Changing rules for measuring jobs") is quite wrong to allege that "Labour ministers seem to be losing their enthusiasm for ditching the current measuring system".

My statement yesterday in fact stressed that "We must not forget that there are other people without work who do not appear in the claimant count" and pointed to the report we have asked for from the Office of National Statistics.

Public confidence in the credibility of unemployment statistics can only be established by this review at arm's length from Government; not by replacing one form of political manipulation by another.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW SMITH,
Department for Education and Employment,
Sanctuary Buildings,
Great Smith Street,
Westminster, SW1,
September 18.

Tills apart

From Mr Colin Croskin

Sir, It is somewhat pedantic of Professor Maxwell Gaskin to say in his letter (September 11) that I was "wrong" in stating that Scottish banks issue banknotes with the permission of the Bank of England (letter, September 2).

Every banknote issued by Scottish and Northern Irish banks has to be backed pound for pound by Bank of England notes, special £1 million notes being used for this purpose.

So these banks are hardly free agents.

Yours sincerely,
COLIN CROSKIN,
4 Highfield Cottages,
Ingletton, North Yorkshire,
croskin@compuserve.com
September 12.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Brass, but not bold

From Mr P. J. Livesey

Sir, I see that a disconsolate Lord Montagu has been forced to retire his Vauxhall Prince Henry from the Peking-Paris Challenge owing to a comparatively minor mechanical failure (Car 97, September 13).

Come, you intrepid gentlemen, this is no way to respond to adversity! In 1907, Prince Borghese and his fellow contestants faced incomparably greater trials and overcame them. You have the benefit of 90 additional years of engineering expertise, back-up vehicles and equipment, your route fully planned, plus any amount of local artisan talent.

I suggest you take the car off the trailer, get yourselves down to the nearest machine shop and call in those expert workers in brass so common in China.

I am, Sir, with dirt under my fingernails,
P. J. LIVESLEY,
White Cottage, Frieth,
Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire,
September 16.

In faith we trust

From Mr Alan Challoner

Sir, In his letter of September 16, Mr Barry Holroyd writes that "when people stop believing in God... they then start believing in anything", and goes on to ridicule some of the belief objects that have turned up in a university survey — the impression being given that a belief in God is the only avenue for personal and spiritual survival.

This is of course not true. Many people have eschewed religion (as a prop) and have come to believe in themselves.

Such people have developed a faith in their own abilities to examine the world in which we live and, having done so, have realised that it is better to stand on their own two feet than it is to wait for miracles.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN CHALLONER,
13 The Village,
Bodelwyddan, Denbighshire,
September 17.

NEWS

BBC backs down over changes

The BBC backed down yesterday over proposed changes to television and radio news after a wave of protest from key presenters and editors.

Sir Christopher Bland, Chairman of the BBC Board of Governors, intervened to suspend the moves as Tony Hall, the BBC's chief executive of news, admitted that neither the governors nor John Birt, the Director-General, had been fully apprised of the detail of the changes before they were announced. Pages 1, 2

Tourists flee Cairo after attack

Hundreds of British tourists were evacuated from Cairo as the city was unofficially declared a no-go area for foreign holidaymakers after suspected Muslim militants attacked a tourist bus, killing ten people and wounding 19. Pages 1, 13

Churchill restoration

The humble grave of Sir Winston Churchill and the quiet English churchyard where he is buried are to receive a £350,000 refurbishment. Pages 1, 5

Warnock death

Baroness Warnock, a member of the Archbishop of Canterbury's advisory group on medical ethics, revealed how her husband was helped to die by a doctor who advocates euthanasia. Page 3

Palace intruder

Detectives are investigating how an intruder spent seven hours in Kensington Palace without being detected. The man was a convicted crack cocaine dealer with a mental illness. Page 6

Milk saves runaway

A teenaged runaway was rescued from a life of heroin addiction after her photograph was printed on tens of thousands of milk cartons. Page 7

Road hazard

The motor industry was attacked for doing too little to tackle air pollution or to counter the macho motoring culture which prizes high-performance cars. Page 8

Hindley attack

A controversial portrait of the Moors murderer Myra Hindley in the Royal Academy of Arts' *Sensation* exhibition was attacked by two protesters when the show opened. Page 9

Modesty blamed for council cover-up

So many male members of a council were distracted during meetings by the legs of their female colleagues that a councillor insisted desks should be fitted with "modesty" curtains. East Riding council has spent £645 on the cover-up after a Liberal Democrat, Dave Ireland, said his colleagues spent their time voting on who had the best legs. Page 1

Video game addicts

Almost one in four teenagers fears becoming addicted to fantasy video games, with around ten per cent spending more than 30 hours a week in front of the computer, says a survey. Page 10

CIA meal of spying

The CIA has produced a cookbook of covert recipes designed to give the persecuted spy agency greater public appeal on its 50th anniversary. Page 11

Saturn launch

The century's last great planetary probe — and the biggest spacecraft to be sent to the outer solar system — is ready for launch to Saturn. Page 11

Summit soothing

The German Government played down harmful comments by Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Minister, about the single European currency as the Franco-German summit began. Page 12

Uganda child slaves

Ugandan children are being forced to take up arms and serve as sex slaves by rebels who aim to rule according to the Ten Commandments. Page 14

Chinese change

The third most powerful man in China's leadership, the seemingly liberal Qiao Shi, was dropped from the Communist Party central committee as Jiang Zemin solidified his power. Page 15



Jessica Griffiths arrives at Capel-y-Ffin polling station in Wales's Black Mountains to vote in yesterday's devolution referendum

BUSINESS

Pensions cost: The costs of compensating those missed personal pensions could be far higher than the £4 billion estimate. Page 23

Accountants to merge: Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse have confirmed plans for a merger to create the biggest accounting firm in the world. Page 23

Pit closures: Coal unions may force the early closure of some pits owned by RJB Mining as part of a battle over redundancy entitlements worth an estimated £65 million. Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 33.1 points to close at 5046.2. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 99.5 to 100.6 after a rise from £1.6024 to £1.6157 and from DM2.8327 to DM2.8612. Page 26

SPORT

Cricket: Kent, who started the final round of county championship games one point behind the leaders Glamorgan, took a first-innings lead of 93 over Surrey at Canterbury. Page 44

Motor racing: Damon Hill, who was dropped by the Arrows team, is set to sign for Jordan, where he will partner Ralf Schumacher next season. Page 44

Football: Bruce Grobbelaar and Hans Segers could still be banned from the game for life after being charged with breaking the Football Association's betting rules. Page 38

Sailing: Lawrie Smith was officially confirmed as director of sailing for Great Britain's America's Cup campaign for Auckland in 2000. Page 42

ARTS

Tennstedt's legacy: "I doubt whether I shall ever encounter another conductor so capable of embodying the frailty of man and the greatness of mankind," says Richard Morrison about Klaus Tennstedt, who is gravely ill. Page 31

Guarded enthusiasm: The new West End musical, *Enter the Guardsman*, gets a muted fanfare of welcome from Benedict Nightingale. Page 31

Pop on Friday: Caitlin Moran talks to The Sundays: David Sinclair reviews the new album from the Icelandic chanteuse Björk. Plus reviews and Top Ten. Page 32-33

West Brom humour: Frank Skinner, comedian and incurable West Bromwich Albion supporter, has embarked on a tour. Page 34

FEATURES

Thief of arts: It was called America's art theft of the century. The FBI think they know who did it, but not where the spoils are. However, a Boston journalist may have the answer. Page 16

Political couple: Dorian Jabri talks for the first time about his private and political partnership with Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. Page 17

Here and there: John O'Leary looks at discontent over Whitehall control of schools, while Mark Whitaker reports on a radical experiment in Chicago. Page 35

Question of grammar: Many students lack the basic equipment to build a proper sentence, says Susan Elkin. Page 35

Come September: Chris Barton, Professor of Family Law at Staffordshire University, describes the start of a new term. Page 35

THE PAPERS

Half-way good news from Oslo, where nearly one hundred countries have agreed to a treaty banning landmines. The signatories promise never to use, develop, produce, store, advertise or distribute anti-personnel mines. If the pact is ratified in December there is a chance that one of the most horrific weapons will be phased out. — *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*

TOMORROW

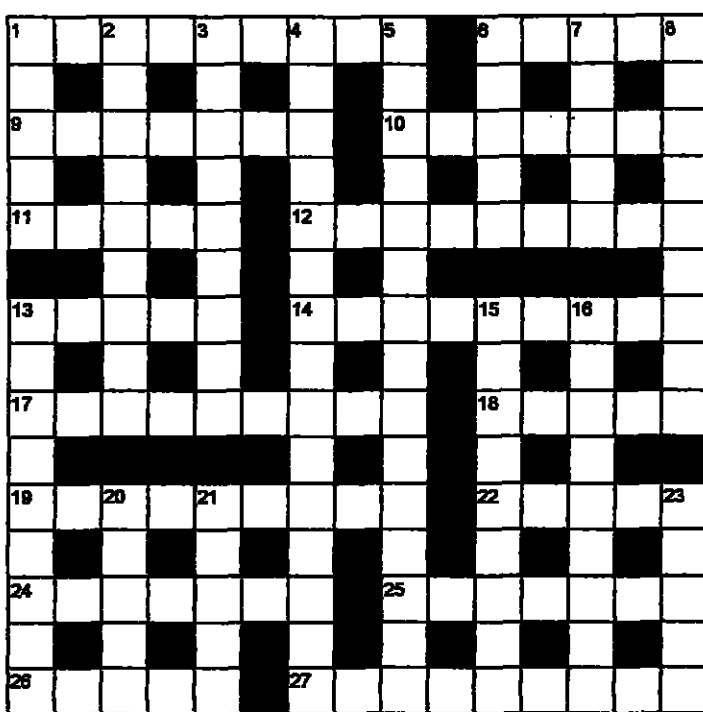
IN THE TIMES

METRO
Going Wilde for Jennifer Ehle: Alan Jackson is entranced with the star playing Oscar's wife

MAGAZINE
Growing up with the mob: Victoria Gotti on her Mafia father



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,589



ACROSS

- Medusa taking dessert before main course (9).
- Flourish in suit (5).
- Almost unworthy of being included in a little trinket (7).
- Chatter about one very averse to publicity (7).
- It's installed up front in truck and compels honest operation (5).
- English very, very good, zealously advocating cause (9).
- Brass money, old and new, withdrawn (5).
- Calibre is incorrect, with a short fuse (9).
- Passed a range of knowledge on to public (9).
- A maiden to keep supplying generously (5).
- Old object thrown to drop around female and cause confusion (9).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,588

LOCUM SECRETIVE
O U O E L N A
CARIBALDI DEER
I B F N O A L
SOLDERING IRON
E D S A I T
T A G O S H O U L D E R
C I C L N O Y I
A P O C A L Y P S E
N N N I T A U
NONALIGNED
S A A I H P
CLIMB TITLE PAGE
A R I U L D S
THEOSOPHY ETHOS

DOWN

- One given accommodation by fat landowner (5).
- Skill employed in little drink (7).
- Best be silent on short measure of drink (7).
- Grand piano blemished, to some extent (5).
- Nearly let out for ever (9).
- Write briefly about Jack's ornamental fruit (5).
- Loft partners utilise for making stew (9).
- Most chicken's so well cooked on the outside, however (9).
- Imprisoned frequently, I am finally free at critical moment (2,3,4,2,4).
- Eternal optimist will produce strife within author's family (4,7,4).
- Ask about popular person (5).
- Pilmsy basket (5).
- They care surprisingly about sovereign's infidelity (9).
- Palm a bit unusual at christening (9).
- Rosemary or Heather, say, mixed drink (5).
- Nothing charged for fruit (5).
- Inactive bridge player leading one to expect pass (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 44

LATEST ROAD AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

UK Weather: All regions 0336 444 910
UK Roads: All regions 0336 401 410
Inside M25 0336 401 740
M25 and Link Roads 0336 401 747
Support Information 0336 401 822
Cherryland Parts 0336 401 910
Channel crossing 0336 401 388
Planning to Heathrow & Gatwick airports 0336 407 505

Weather by Fax
Dial 0336 followed by area number from your fax
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Fax Europe 0336 401 201
Fax USA 0336 401 202
Fax Japan 0336 401 203
Fax Australia 0336 401 204
Fax New Zealand 0336 401 205
Fax South Africa 0336 401 206
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TODAY



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Hill rewarded
for driving a
hard bargain
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 19 1997

Unions threaten RJB pit closures to secure payoffs



Budge: rolling contract

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE coal unions may force the early closure of some pits owned by RJB Mining as part of a battle over redundancy entitlements worth an estimated £65 million.

The unions fear that employees of RJB will miss out on redundancy packages worth up to £27,000 for miners and up to £60,000 for colliery managers because the company has not made progress in crucial contract talks with the generators and has not yet set out plans for its future. The severance schemes, inherited from

British Coal, finish with the expiry at the end of March of the government-arranged coal contracts with the electricity generators.

RJB last month closed the Asfordby superpit but offered jobs in other pits for most of the 450 miners. The firm could launch a redundancy programme on April 1 and be allowed to pay only the statutory redundancy. This is a maximum of £6,000 but is likely to average £4,000 for RJB workers. If — as industry insiders forecast — renegotiation of the electricity contracts lead to five or six pits closing, then the redundancy cash at stake is more than £65 million.

Union leaders are pressing Richard Budge, chief executive of RJB, both for fresh redundancy terms and progress on the contract negotiations. One union leader said: "If we get to Christmas and there is no deal signed then we could see pit closures forced by the employees to secure the payments."

Another industry source said: "There are bound to be closures because the market doesn't need the quantity of coal that RJB has."

The market for coal is declining as more electricity generation comes from gas. The renegotiation of the March 1998 contracts are crucial but

RJB faces increasing competition from cheap imports and small mining companies. It is believed that RJB is nowhere near a deal with any of the three major generators. Mr Budge, who is on an 18-month rolling contract earning £299,280, is said to be sticking to a tough price for the coal while calling on government help to extend the coal contracts.

Mr Budge inherited redundancy liabilities under the Transfer of Undertakings and Protection of Employment regulations, a European provision to maintain employees' terms and conditions.

Neil Greatrex, president of the Union of Democratic Miners, said: "There is an increasing concern that is going around the industry that redundancies will be made after March 31 and the employees will lose the rights they had." Mr Greatrex said he has tried to raise the issue with John Birtle, Energy Minister, but has not been able to get a meeting. The Department of Trade and Industry would not comment.

RJB said: "The issue of redundancies is not one we are looking at because there are no plans for redundancies at present. Until we have renegotiated the contracts we don't know our production requirements."

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5048.2	(+35.1)
Nikkei	17930.09	(+246.82)
Dow Jones	7987.70	(+101.29)
S&P Composite	954.89	(+11.89)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5.5%	(5.5%)
Long Bond	100%	(9.3%)
Yield	6.37%	(6.3%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	7.5%	(7.5%)
12-month bill	117%	(117%)

STERLING

New York	1.6080	(1.6020)
London	1.6161	(1.6022)
DM	9.6124	(9.5191)
FF	2.3991	(2.3264)
Yen	197.71	(192.47)
S index	100.5	(98.5)

US DOLLAR

London	1.7802	(1.7715)
DM	5.9795	(5.9510)
FF	1.4661	(1.4613)
Yen	121.73	(120.34)
S index	105.7	(105.1)

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Dec)	\$18.50	(n/a)
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GOLD

London close	\$320.85	(\$320.65)
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* denotes midday trading price

Pirates

The booming British music industry is being exploited by international music pirates who are illegally producing CDs worth an estimated £3.1 billion each year. Page 24

Merger cost

Sun Life & Provincial, which merged with AXA Equity & Law two months ago to form the third-largest group in the UK life and pensions market, spent £48 million on the deal. Page 28

Pensions mis-selling costs will top £4bn

By CAROLINE MERRELL

THE costs to life insurers of compensating those that have been mis-sold personal pensions could be far higher than the original £4 billion estimate.

The soaring compensation cost figures emerged as Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, revealed that a further 1.5 million pension mis-selling victims have yet to be identified.

Figures from the Personal Investment Authority show that, so far, the industry has offered more than £452 million of compensation to only 73,000 victims — an average of £6,000 per case. An estimated further 100,000 have yet to be compensated from a total of nearly 600,000 priority cases. Work on finding the extra 1.5 million non-priority cases, highlighted by Mrs Liddell, has not even started for many companies. The two million total means that around a quarter of those with personal pensions could have been mis-sold a policy.

City experts have calculated that, if only a third of these two million cases require compensation, the bill for the industry will exceed £4 billion. Bacon & Woodrow, the leading firm of actuaries working on mis-selling claims, yesterday agreed that costs of compensation could top the £4 billion estimate.

The compensation process has already begun to take a heavy toll on the balance sheets of some of the UK's biggest insurers. Prudential has put aside £450 million to pay compensation. Britannic has set aside £150 million, while AXA Equity & Law said yesterday that it had put aside £32 million. Pearl, which has among the highest number of cases, has refused to reveal how much compensation could cost. However, it has paid out £500,000 on one case alone. Mrs Liddell said: "We actually do not know what the final amount is. It is a time bomb for many individuals." Those in the second group of non-priority cases will include many younger people, under the age of 35. Mrs Liddell

pointed out that many of these will have bought personal pensions believing that they were being financially prudent.

In an effort to keep up the pressure, Mrs Liddell named a further 17 firms yesterday that have high numbers of mis-selling cases. These included Standard Life, Albany Life, AXA Equity & Law, Commercial Union, and the three biggest networks of independent financial advisers — Burns Anderson, Countrywide and DBS.

Mrs Liddell has now named 41 firms that are the most guilty. She estimates they represent 83 per cent of all cases. In an effort to hasten the review, the Treasury now plans to publish figures on compensation each month. Mrs Liddell claims that her policy of "naming and shaming" the guilty companies has already had a significant effect on the speed of the review. She said: "The industry has now sat up and taken note of it. We have seen a massive upturn in activity."

The Prudential last week admitted that it was unlikely to meet its first deadline for compensating priority cases. She said: "I am very disappointed at the Pru."

The Pru said some of the delay had been caused by the mis-allocation of 8,000 cases. A Pru spokesman said: "We are disappointed that we are likely to miss the deadline."

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Liddell: "a time bomb"



Do it yourself: Bill Grimsey, chief executive of Wickes, announced that he intends to move the company further into mainstream DIY retailing

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

Wickes unveils the future

WICKES, the DIY retailer, yesterday attempted to draw a line under last year's accounting scandal as it unveiled a four-year plan to introduce new store formats and wider ranges. The company unveiled a pre-tax loss of £14.7 million for the six months to June 30 because of a £16 million write-

off of goodwill after the disposal of its continental operations last year. Operating profit of £3.65 million pleased the City, which marked the shares up 16.5p to 196p. There is no interim dividend. The Serious Fraud Office is continuing to investigate former directors of

Wickes after uncovering of a £50 million-plus hole in its accounts.

Bill Grimsey, chief executive, said that he plans to move Wickes further into mainstream DIY retailing, while retaining its stake in the heavier, building materials end, in order to

build margins from the current 2.3 per cent to the industry average of 5 to 6 per cent.

The company will invest about £3 million in converting six stores to a new trial format, carrying a broader range in areas such as paints, wallcoverings and bathroom accessories, and will also invest in an upgraded information technology system.

Competition threat to creation of world's biggest accountant

By ROBERT BRUCE

COOPERS & LYBRAND and Price Waterhouse yesterday confirmed plans for a merger that will create the biggest accounting firm in the world. But the deal has still to clear regulatory hurdles in the UK and US.

A small team of fewer than a dozen is now working on proposals on which the two firms' 8,500 partners can vote before the end of the year.

If the partners vote in through, the new firm would replace Arthur Andersen as the global leader in accounting. Andersen's global fee

income in 1996 was \$9.5 billion (£5.9 billion). The combined 1996 figures for Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse amount to \$11.8 billion.

Anxious to avoid suggestions that US and UK competition authorities would be looking at the deal in detail, partners were emphasising the benefits of size to clients. Nicholas Moore, of Coopers, who would chair the proposed new firm, said that together the firms "will have global reach, the global strength and the integrated management structure" needed for success.

The deal faces scrutiny under US anti-trust legislation. In the UK, the Department of Trade and Industry was unable to say whether the Office of Fair Trading or the EU would examine the merger. The combined firm would audit more than half the companies in the FTSE 100.

The proposed new firm does not have a name. "Accountants are not terribly good at this," said Ian Brindle, deputy chairman of Price Waterhouse, Europe.

Shy of consent, page 27

Institutional apathy reigns despite 'fat-cat' controversy

By JASON NISSÉ

PRESSURE from the Cadbury Committee, the Association of British Insurers (ABI) and the National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF) for institutional investors to make their voices heard with companies has had little effect, research published today will show.

A comprehensive study of voting at annual shareholder meetings by Pirc, the City consultancy, has found that the average level of votes cast on motions which public companies put to shareholders increased by just 1.6 per cent between 1993 and 1996.

The report, to be presented at today's Pirc Conference on the Hampel Committee report into corporate governance, reveals that the average vote was 39.3 per cent last year despite institutions holding more than 90 per cent of shares in UK companies. The ABI and NAPF recommend that their members vote all their shares on all motions which companies put to shareholders.

Pirc found that the level of opposition to company motions had increased — however the average opposition has risen from 0.64 per cent to

only 1.07 per cent. No company motions were defeated at annual meetings in 1996.

Pirc said: "Although the level of institutional voting has risen only 2 per cent, there is a growing trend towards oppose and abstain votes, indicating a higher degree of scrutiny."

The research also shows that 95 per cent of institutions had developed corporate governance guidelines, but only a third actually communicated these guidelines to the companies in which they invest.

Commentary, page 25

Friedman says IMF ought to be abolished

By ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

MILTON FRIEDMAN yesterday stunned delegates gathering in Hong Kong for the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund by claiming that the organisation should have been abolished 26 years ago.

The Nobel laureate — regarded as

the founding father of the monetarist economic doctrine that dominated British economics in the 1980s — also warned Europe that pressing ahead with monetary union could lead to the break-up of the European Union.

Professor Friedman, speaking in Hong Kong before today's opening meetings, argued that the IMF had long outlived its purpose. "It should

have been abolished in 1971 and if not then now," he said. "If you had a private enterprise whose function had disappeared it would go bankrupt and out of existence, but not a government organisation."

The IMF was founded immediately after the end of the Second World War to supervise fixed exchange rates established under the Bretton

Woods agreement. But this role disappeared after the dollar floated in 1971.

Professor Friedman, who preached free market capitalism for more than a quarter of a century from his base at the University of Chicago, was scathing about the IMF's new role of offering cheap loans to governments that run into debt

problems, most recently bailing out Thailand with \$17 billion in bridging loans. He claimed that most of the governments "have exercised too much influence on their economies rather than too little" and the IMF "now does more harm than good".

Doubts on debt help, page 24
Commentary, page 25

We don't mix Business with leisure.

Only British Midland offers a separate Business Class on all UK and European flights from Heathrow.

British Midland
The Airline for Europe

CBI offers manufacturers hope on exports

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE sharp decline in manufacturing export orders may be levelling off, the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday.

The CBI's September monthly trends survey provides the first tentative evidence that the manufacturing sector has weathered the worst of the damage caused by the strong pound.

Separate data also published yesterday shows money supply pressures easing slightly although economists said the slowdown is unlikely to prevent further rate rises.

Fewer manufacturers reported below aver-

age export orders in September, the CBI said, although order books remain very weak and close to the five-year low recorded last month.

Sudhir Junakur, associate director of economic analysis at the CBI, said: "Although our survey shows export demand still to be weak, there is just a hint from the figures that the sharp deterioration since June has levelled off."

But economists cautioned that there is little sign of the sector benefiting greatly from the recent slide in the pound.

Total order books weakened because of a slight moderation in domestic demand and remain below normal for the sixth consecutive month. But the CBI said output growth

expectations are healthy while the strong pound continues to hold back inflation.

The latest raft of monetary statistics also sent mixed signals to the markets with lending figures showing some signs of slowdown but consumer credit figures rising.

Annual growth of M4, the measure of broad money supply, declined from 12 per cent to 11.6 per cent in August — although it remains above the old monitoring range of 3 to 9 per cent. M4 bank and building society lending declined from £4.2 billion to £4 billion, the lowest level for two years. But economists said this figure had been flattened by the effect of the gilt repo market.

Separate figures produced by the British

Bankers Association showed lending to individuals by the high street banks declining to £1.25 billion in August from £1.29 billion. The mortgage lending component rose £753 million, compared with a six-month average of £818 million, backing up other evidence that the housing boom is beginning to slow.

But the BBA measure of consumer credit surged to £499 million from £411 million in July. Building Society Association data also showed gross mortgage lending falling slightly in August to £2.14 billion, while net advances increased marginally to £1.13 billion.

Economic view, page 27

Pirates of the high Cs plunder £3.1bn

BY CHRIS AYRES

THE booming British music industry is being exploited by international music pirates who are illegally producing CDs worth an estimated £3.1 billion each year, according to an international copyright watchdog.

Many of the CDs, such as Oasis's *Be Here Now* and Spice by the Spice Girls, enter the black market only days after being released. The illegal production of CDs is often backed by international organised crime groups, such as the Chinese triads and the Russian, Bulgarian and Italian mafias.

The revelation will come as an embarrassment to the British music industry, which claimed that CDs were "un-pirateable" when they were launched in the early 1980s. In those days, a CD manufacturing plant cost more than £30 million and needed to be housed in a large warehouse.

Now, a machine the size of a small filing cabinet costing only £350,000 can produce up to 5 million CDs a year. Over recent years the number of CD producing plants has exploded, with many running at undercapacity, especially in Bulgaria and China.

These factors, alongside a widespread feeling that legitimate CDs are overpriced, have allowed the black market to expand by 6 per cent over the past year, with further growth expected.

British based record companies, such as EMI and Polygram, now fear that the huge growth expected in foreign sales of British music will be felt mainly in the black market. A survey published earlier this week by Credit Suisse, the Swiss bank, suggested that foreign sales could double before 2002.

Nic Garnett, director general of the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry, said: "The amount of CDs being illegally produced is enormous. HMV in Oxford Street contains 1 million CDs at any one time. You would need 350 HMVs to get the amount of CDs pirated every year. That is how big the problem is."

The industry-funded IFPI yesterday unveiled a "zero tolerance" policy for CD piracy. It also announced the appointment of a head of enforcement, Iain Grant, the former head of the Hong Kong police narcotics division.

He said: "We need to go for the jugular, hit the big players and have a ruthless approach. When music pirates think about the IFPI I want them to think about jail sentences, confiscation of assets and of expensive and lengthy litigation."

The industry-funded IFPI yesterday unveiled a "zero tolerance" policy for CD piracy. It also announced the appointment of a head of enforcement, Iain Grant, the former head of the Hong Kong police narcotics division.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, arrives in Hong Kong today, determined to reinforce progress towards debt relief. At this week's meeting of Commonwealth finance ministers in Mauritius, he pledged that Britain would fulfil its promises made under the HIPC initiatives and British government sources said that they would immediately release about \$32 million (£20 million) that had been pledged to the IMF for debt relief.

But there is an increasing perception that the momentum behind HIPC has been lost.

The IFS finds that the average statutory tax rate for



Confident: Mark Pullen, left, the Geest finance director, with Ian Menzies-Gow

Geest chills out with 74% rise

BY CHRIS AYRES

GEEST, the chilled foods group that recently shed its volatile bananas business, lifted profits 74 per cent in the half year to July 5, from £7.3 million to £12.7 million. The strong performance was helped by growing demand for chilled convenience foods. Turnover rose from £207 million to £227 million, with

earnings per share up from 6.9p to 12.5p. The interim dividend will be increased for the first time in five years, from 3.7p to 4p, payable on December 31. The shares rose 18p to 347p in response.

The company said it would continue to look for bolt-on acquisitions.

man, said: "The year to date has more than met our expectations. The chilled convenience foods market is growing strongly and we have significant positions within it. With a strong cash flow and sound balance sheet we shall continue to invest to match demand. We are confident of the outcome for this year."

Ian Menzies-Gow, chair-

GEC joint venture flotation 'is a possibility'

BY ADAM JONES

GEC's French partner on the GEC-Alsthom joint venture said yesterday that the £4 billion business may be floated, although it still prefers a merger with a French state-owned nuclear engineering group.

GEC owns 50 per cent of the joint venture. The other half is owned by Alcatel Alsthom, the French telecoms and electrical engineering group. Alcatel was thought to oppose to a flotation but Serge Tchuruk, chairman, said it was a possibility yesterday, as he unveiled a return to profitability in the first half of 1997 for the French group.

However, he added that Alcatel still prefers a merger with Framatome, in which it has a 44 per cent stake.

George Simpson, GEC managing director, signalled in early July that he would like to float GEC-Alsthom, a power and transport equipment maker, to focus GEC more on defence electronics. A decision was expected within three months, leaving mid-October as a general deadline.

M. Tchuruk repeated his dissatisfaction with joint venture arrangements. The company has a 44 per cent stake in Thomson-CSF, controlled by the French state.

M. Tchuruk said he expected orders to pick up at GEC-Alsthom, where a programme to cut costs by 30 per cent is being implemented. The 12.3 per cent return on equity after charges is dwarfed by the 22 per cent enjoyed by ABB, the Swiss-Swedish group, but better than the 10.5 per cent of Siemens.

GEC shares closed 4p up at 387p. Analysts were unsure how much Alcatel had softened on the float option. "It's not entirely clear what Alcatel are saying," said one. But if GEC succeeds in floating GEC-Alsthom, some feel it would tempt bidders for the previously hard-to-digest group, driving up the GEC share price.

IMF casts doubts on debt help

FROM JANET BUSH
IN HONG KONG

The International Monetary Fund yesterday sounded a distinctly defeatist note on its initiative to relieve the debts of the world's poorest nations.

Michael Camdessus, managing director of the IMF, refused to express any optimism that its highly indebted poor countries debt initiative (HIPC) would make further progress at the fund's annual meeting.

He cast doubt on whether the fund would get the financial resources it needs from its members to fulfil the promises of HIPC and he placed the onus back on poor countries to improve their economic performance.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, arrives in Hong Kong today, determined to reinforce progress towards debt relief. At this week's meeting of Commonwealth finance ministers in Mauritius, he pledged that Britain would fulfil its promises made under the HIPC initiatives and British government sources said that they would immediately release about \$32 million (£20 million) that had been pledged to the IMF for debt relief.

But there is an increasing perception that the momentum behind HIPC has been lost.

Investment race fails to cut taxes

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

GLOBAL competition for investment is not causing a dramatic reduction in levels of corporate taxation, a new study published today concludes.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies argues that there is no empirical evidence that tax competition between countries is driving tax revenues toward zero or causing a significant erosion of the tax base. The IFS study, *Taxing Profits in a Changing World*, examines corporate taxation in ten OECD countries, including Britain and Ireland, during the period 1979 to 1994.

The IFS finds that the average statutory tax rate for

corporations has declined from around 48 per cent (1979) to 40 per cent (1994) and there has been some convergence in rates in the countries studied.

But changes in the treatments of corporate investment allowances, which have resulted in the widening of the tax base, have ensured that tax revenue has remained relatively stable. Measures of the effective tax rates incurred by corporations were also fairly static. The IFS, however, says that the countries examined do not necessarily include those where tax competition is greatest and that other changes could also have important consequences.

Raine helps confidence at Alfred McAlpine

BY PAUL DURMAN



Whitehead: doubters

ALFRED McALPINE, the housebuilding and civil engineering group, is confident that its recovery is set to continue after the rapid integration of Raine, its recent acquisition.

Oliver Whitehead, chief executive, said: "Most of the restructuring is done and dusted. We have to convince the doubters in the market place that this is a good deal for McAlpine." Sceptics have suggested the Raine deal simply brought together two weak companies.

McAlpine has integrated Raine's housebuilding arm to form eight regional companies. It has just sold West Venture, Raine's US housing business,

for £12.2 million, and expects to raise a further £7.5 million from selling its commercial properties in the UK and US, along with land in Spain.

Acquired in mid-June, Raine contributed only £700,000 to first-half operating profits of £6.5 million (£3.7 million).

McAlpine's private housebuilding business made a £4.6 million profit (£2.9 million). The civil engineering arm reported flat profits of £1.3 million, while the special projects division only broke even.

Alfred McAlpine will pay an unchanged interim dividend of 3p a share on November 28.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Ernst & Young pays \$100m out of court

ERNST & YOUNG, the accountant, has agreed to pay \$100 million (£60 million) for its role in a 1990 US banking crisis. As auditor of a local insurer, Ernst & Young was implicated in the closure of 45 banks and credit unions in the state of Rhode Island. The crisis started with the failure of a small bank insured by the Ernst & Young client, which led to a state-wide run on deposits and the unexpected collapse of the insurer, whose reserves were depleted. Ernst & Young denies any wrongdoing and said it settled out of court because of the high cost of commercial litigation in the US. It claimed that part of the \$100 million was covered by its own insurance.

The accountant, the second-biggest in the US after yesterday's meganewer, is expected to report annual revenues of \$3.6 billion (£2 billion) at the end of this month. Of the big six accountancy firms, Ernst & Young has been hardest hit by US compensation settlements, according to the National Association of Securities and Commercial Law Attorneys. In the four years up to 1995, Ernst & Young had to pay \$400 million out of a total of \$1.1 billion.

Daiwa Securities raided

JAPAN'S financial scandal tripped up a third big brokerage firm yesterday as prosecutors raided Daiwa Securities and alleged the firm had made huge payoffs to the racketeer at the heart of the affair. Tokyo prosecutors alleged in a statement that Daiwa Securities had paid a total of 67.28 million yen (about £347,000) to Ryutichi Kojima, a *sokajya* corporate racketeer. Mr Kojima is already under arrest for his alleged role in the payoff scandal in which Nomura Securities, Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank and Yamaichi Securities are embroiled.

US trade deficit grows

RECORD imports helped by car purchases from Japan and falling exports pushed the US trade deficit up sharply in July. The Commerce Department said the shortfall in trade with the rest of the world jumped 24.7 per cent in July to \$10.34 billion from \$8.29 billion in June, much higher than the \$9.4 billion deficit expected by Wall Street economists. William Daley, the Commerce Secretary, said America had been performing well given the slower economic growth among its top trading partners. But he had some tough words for Japan.

Gas price cut inquiry

THE gas regulator is to investigate British Gas's planned nationwide price cuts in the wake of concern that they will discriminate against low-income fuel users. The cuts, which would mean £28 off an average annual bill, do not apply to customers on pre-payment meters. Campaigners claim competition is increasing the relative burden of fuel costs on low-income households. Suppliers say pre-payment customers cost more to service so they are not generally offered the same rates as direct debit customers and prompt payers.

Help for small firms

THE Government yesterday backed an innovative new way of financing small firms in a move aimed at improving the competitiveness of small and medium-sized companies. The endorsement of European-style mutual guarantee funds for small firms came after The Co-operative and Unity Trust banks said that they would be financing mutual trust guarantee societies as a means of generating finance for companies. The Co-op is to finance local societies with an initial loan fund of £5 million over the next three years.

Protean bid approach

PROTEAN, the engineering group, saw its shares soar from 135p to 180p after revealing that it had received an approach that may or may not lead to an offer being made for the company. A further announcement will be made as soon as possible, shareholders were promised. At last night's closing price Protean is worth almost £80 million on the stock market. In the year to March 31 the group made pre-tax profits of £8.7 million on sales of £81.1 million. The shares hit a peak of 272p in 1996 but have recently traded as low as 125p.

Toyota 'for France'

TOYOTA yesterday refused to confirm reports that it has decided to build a new small car for the European market in France despite intense lobbying efforts by Britain to land the project. Japanese press reports said the nation's biggest car-maker plans to locate the plant in northeastern France, but will manufacture engines for the 1,000-1,300 cc car at its existing factory at Burnaston, near Derby. A Toyota spokesman insisted that no decision had been reached.

Gains for troubled Cape

CONTROVERSY over its former asbestos mining activities in South Africa overshadowed a return to profit for Cape, the building materials group, in the first half. It faces asbestos-related disease claims from five South Africans formerly employed at a subsidiary that no longer exists. Cape typically spends £2 million to £3 million a year settling asbestos claims. Profits before tax were £4 million compared with a £19.7 million loss after one-off restructuring charges a year ago. The interim dividend is held at 3p, payable on November 14.

Chairman sells shares

THE chairman of European Telecom, the distributor of mobile phones and accessories, yesterday sold 4.9 million shares at 235p, raising about £11.5 million. The shares were floated last year at half that price. Warren Hardy said he sold the shares, representing about 15 per cent of the outstanding share capital, to expand the company's shareholder base and improve liquidity. He still owns 53.6 per cent of the company. The sale came as the company announced the appointment of Ian Lang, former President of the Board of Trade, as deputy chairman.

10p THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

Building society takes issue with member who published booklet

Britannia closes carpetbagger's account

BY OUR CITY STAFF

BRITANNIA Building Society has closed the account of a member for writing a booklet advising investors how best to go about carpetbaggery.

Britannia — which strongly believes building societies should not convert to banks — said it had decided to suspend the membership of Jon Massey because he was campaigning against mutualism.

Mr Massey has received publicity about his booklet, *The Carpetbagger's Accomplice*, in which he says anyone who did not want to earn a £1500 windfall from a £100 investment was a "complete idiot".

Stephen Williams, Britannia's chief solicitor, wrote to Mr Massey, saying it planned to close his "over account on

October 31. He said that unless Mr Massey had any other account or mortgage, then his membership would cease on that date.

"Please do not ask to open any further accounts with the society as our staff have been instructed to decline any such requests," said Mr Williams, who did not disclose any reason for the move.

A spokeswoman said the decision to exclude Mr Massey had been taken by the board. "We reserve the right to end the membership of any customer who is actively campaigning against mutualism. We are staunchly committed to mutualism," she said. "We do not take these decisions lightly."

Speculation that a number of societies

may float has intensified after three flotations this year and the failure of campaigner Michael Hardern to win election to the board of the Nationwide on a flotation ticket.

Mr Massey, from Plymouth, said he believed he had been unfairly treated. "I have not suggested standing for the board, like Michael Hardern, or doing anything to accelerate the conversion, although I hope it does convert," he said.

Mr Massey said he intended to establish whether the society was within its rights to close his account. The society pointed to the terms and conditions of the account, which state: "The society reserves the right to close the account upon giving written notice to the account holder."



Hardern: failed to be elected

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.08	2.18
Austria Sch	21.14	19.48
Canada Fr	62.25	67.27
Denmark Kr	2.70	2.52
Cyprus Cyp	0.889	0.918
Finland Mk	2.48	2.32
France Fr	6.55	6.35
Germany Dr	10.08	9.50
Greece Dr	10.08	9.50
Hong Kong \$	15.54	12.14
Ireland Ir	1.28	1.08
Italy Lit	1.74	1.05
Japan Yen	168.00	164.00
Norway Kr	2.72	2.48
Portugal Esc	208.48	204.00
Spain Ptas	166.64	164.00
Sweden Kr	10.08	9.50
Switzerland Fr	2.51	2.30
Taiwan Nts	28.685	28.772
USA \$	1.72	1.57

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Investors ready for rough journey as futures expire

HANG on to your hats! It could be a rough ride for investors in the City today as they are forced to survive the combined effect of the expiry of the September financial future and "triple witching" hour in New York.

Brokers last night gave warning that it could lead to further volatility as fund managers and traders rush to close open positions ahead of the expiry deadline.

One US hedge fund got a taste of what things could be like when it tried to close a bear position in the FTSE 100 index September future. Once other traders got wind of it, they made life difficult by chasing the future sharply higher. It closed at 5,091, a premium of 45 points to the cash price, with a massive 20,000 contracts traded.

The underlying equity market continued to extend this week's gains with the help of another opening surge on Wall Street which carried the Dow Jones industrial average more than 130 points higher early on. It followed a subdued Philadelphia Fed business index. Sentiment in London was also supported by the latest CBI survey showing that the recent slide in export orders was tailing off.

But prices in London failed to hold their best levels and the FTSE 100 index finished 33.1 up at 5,046.2 as 821 million shares changed hands.

Will the Government relent and allow foreign shareholders to own more than 30 per cent of Rolls-Royce shares? The City certainly hoped so, which was one of the reasons for the 3p rise to 277p yesterday. There is already some talk that the limit on foreign ownership may be raised to just under 50 per cent.

US buying saw Railtrack surge 35p to 844.5p. Panmure Gordon, the broker, has set a target price of 950p a share.

BOC Group stood out with a rise of 27p at £11.04 after its healthcare arm Ohmeda withdrew an application submitted to the US Food & Drug Administration for a new respiratory treatment with which to treat blue baby syndrome. The application will be re-submitted with new information next year.

Chiroscience rose 12.5p to 277p ahead of a meeting with brokers last night. British Biotech also rose 9p to 168p after giving a presentation for



David Paget, of Whittard of Chelsea, saw shares fall 1 1/2p

one of its new treatments in Hamburg yesterday. Shield Diagnostics was a volatile market touching limits of 700p and 627p before recovering to close just 2 1/2p off at 687 1/2p.

Speculative buying pushed ASW Holdings 8p higher to 36p, a rise of 30 per cent, amid heavy turnover of 2.7 million shares. One story suggests the French Group Unisior is ready to offer 50p a share, valuing the engineering group at £42 million.

There were further losses for National Power, down 9p at 543p, and PowerGen, 6p off at 748 1/2p. This follows

broader comments this week from Panmure Gordon, the broker, which claimed that other forecasts for National Power were too optimistic. PowerGen had been dragged lower by sentiment.

difference in the exposure to the Far East between the two companies," he said.

But even he was surprised by the reaction of the Standard share price and some of the other banks.

"When the financial markets pick up, the banks tend to run with things. Short term, we are selectively overweight, but some of the mortgage banks are fully valued," he added.

Woolwich rose 10p to 327 1/2p while Abbey National added 20 1/2p to 906 1/2p. Barclays 26p to £15.18, and Lloyds TSB 22p to 785p.

There was a mixed reaction to the news that President Clinton had thrown out the £23 billion tobacco settlement. BAT Industries responded with a rise of 1 1/2p to 529p with Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, the broker, telling clients to "buy". Other brokers point out that BAT's current rating values the tobacco operation at virtually zero.

Imperial Group was down 8p at 367 1/2p. It has been losing market share and next week loses its place as a constituent of the top 100 companies. Gallaher, which unveiled maiden interim numbers on Wednesday, slipped 6p to 26p.

Hanson, which also loses its place as a top 100 constituent, fell 6 1/2p to 299p as did Mercury Asset Management, down 1 1/2p at £12.30.

It was the first day of dealings on the big board for Whittard of Chelsea after moving up from AIM. The shares closed 1 1/2p lighter at 230p but have come up from 200p in the past week on the back of results. Another company soon to make the move from AIM to a full listing is Airtech, 1 1/2p better at 90p.

Datatrack Group continued to reflect this week's share purchases by its newly appointed finance director with a rise of 1 1/2p at 93p, stretching the gain of the past two days to 16 1/2p.

Novo Group touched 52 1/2p before ending the session 4p dearer at 49p after the news after the close of business on Wednesday, that it had received a bid approach.

GILT EDGED: There was a further flattening of the yield curve as worries about rising interest rates took their toll on shorter-dated issues.

Buying interest was focused on the ultra long end of the market at the expense of shorter dated issues. Treasury 8 per cent 2015 finished £1 better at £114.4, while Treasury 3 per cent 2000 was a tick easier at £103.4.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt climbed £1 1/2 better at £117 1/2 as the total number of contracts completed reached 124,000.

NEW YORK: The Dow Jones industrial average was up 101.26 points to 7,987.70 by midday as a further slide of friendly economic data boosted the bond and buoyed the cyclical stocks.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 7987.70 (+101.26)
S&P Composite 954.99 (+11.29)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 17930.09 (+266.02)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 14415.45 (+8.28)

Amsterdam:
DOE Index 902.77 (+4.68)

Sydney:
AO 2696.30 (+17.00)

Frankfurt:
DAX 4000.48 (+10.03)

Singapore:
Strait Times 1896.09 (+14.15)

Brussels:
General 13506.23 (+27.81)

Paris:
CAC-40 2978.27 (+34.37)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 1177.00 (+9.80)

London:
FTSE 100 5046.2 (+33.1)
FTSE 250 4701.8 (+15.0)
FTSE 100 Index 5046.2 (+33.1)
FTSE 100 Index 5046.2 (+33.1)

FTSE All-Share 2370.17 (+13.5)
FTSE Non Financials 2367.24 (+10.13)
FTSE Financials 2372.82 (+20.01)
FTSE Govt Sec 96.96 (+0.83)

Bargains 46776
SEAO Volume 621.2m
SEAO Turnover 1.6157 (+0.0133)
German Mark 2.9612 (+0.0025)
Exchange Index 100.0 (+1.1)
Bank of England official base rate 4.75%
RPI 138.5 Aug (3.5%) Jan 1997=100
RPIX 137.1 Aug (2.8%) Jan 1997=100

RECENT ISSUES

Amalgamated Cy Utis 397 1/2
Bristol & West Plc 117 1/2
Camell Laird 144 1/2
EMI B 120 1/2
Fleming Asian 79 1/2
Fleming Asian Writs 161 1/2
GR Holdings 52 1/2
Hellenic Pubing 92 1/2
IS Solutions 135 1/2
Kingfisher Leisure 177 1/2
Reabourne Merit 104 1/2
SBS Group 110 1/2
Seymour Trent B 38 1/2
Seymour Trent B 38 1/2
Style Holdings 84 1/2
Thorn B 20 1/2
Viglen Technology 60 1/2

RIGHTS ISSUES

John Luty n/p (1) 1 1/2
Langdon's Fds n/p (1) 1 1/2
Mitsui CV n/p 85 1/2
SEET n/p (30) 1 1/2

MAJOR CHANGES

RBS: 196p (+18p)
Wicks: 202p (+14p)
Corcoran: 347p (+18p)
Geest: 415p (+20p)
Scotia: 415p (+20p)
Stand Chart: 688p (+41p)
Diagonal: 435p (+20p)
Domino: 356p (+14p)
Dunelm: 450p (+18p)
Wassell: 340p (+13p)
Bowthorpe: 378p (+12p)
Woolwich: 227p (+10p)
Lloyds TSB: 785p (+22p)

FALLS:

Servisair: 332p (-33p)
SIG: 318p (-13p)
Gearhouse GP: 381p (-14p)
Imperial Tobacco: 367p (-8p)
Clenks Bk Sys: 730p (-15p)
Woolwich: 227p (-12p)
Broken Hill: 561p (-8p)
Capricorn: 621p (-8p)
Select App: 585p (-8p)
Bodd Shop: 179p (-7p)

Closing Prices Page 29

TEMPUS

Keep investors afloat

P&O INVESTORS have legendary patience but they deserve some results rather than explanations. This time, the costs of the P&O Medford merger and the revenue account in the first half will do more damage in the full year. However, we are told that the restructuring is on course: P&O is promising the sale of housebuilding, better profitability from containers and more property sales. But to what end?

What shareholders want from P&O is better cash flow: for years, money was ploughed into container ships and real estate and P&O has not raised its payout since 1990. Ideally, this restructuring would be an opportunity to shed even more capital-intensive businesses. The ferries, for example, tie up some £400 million but earned a mere 10 per cent return on capital last year. Given the

cost of new ships, a return of at least 20 per cent is needed to justify the investment. If the European Commission allows the joint venture with Sleno to go ahead, P&O should package the merged business for disposal.

For so long P&O has been like a hoard of hungry children. After years of feeding they grew up into non-productive adolescents, expensive to run and with an uncertain future. P&O's scrip dividend demonstrated the acute craving for cash: a device which could increase the equity base by 6 per cent, leaving P&O with more to sink two ships.

Financing cruise ships with equity is an expensive strategy and one which P&O could avoid by slimming down the group further. Having earned half-way towards its investors, P&O needs to go further and return some of the non-performing capital to shareholders.

Mirror Group

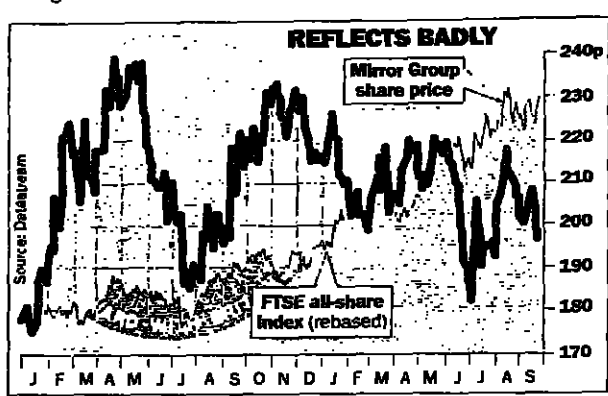
DAVID MONTGOMERY is running out of options and this is precisely why the shares of the Mirror Group, where he is chief executive, may be worth a punt. Mr Montgomery plunged into the smoking rubble of the newspaper company after the death of Robert Maxwell, refinanced it, secured its pension plans and kept his head above water during the nastiest circulation war in recent memory. The shares quadrupled in price. They began to sag early this year and have since underperformed the market.

The Mirror Group lacks an engine of growth. It is to a large extent a single-asset business in an industry with poor long-term growth prospects. While advertising revenues have been buoyant, the continuing price war

means there is little scope to raise cover prices.

Mr Montgomery is nobody's fool and has attempted to build a TV business, but his grand idea of launching a cable-TV programming venture has fallen flat for lack of partners. Meanwhile, Live TV, his low-budget network of local TV stations, has generated more column

inches than profits. Several years on and Mirror Group is still The Mirror plus some bits and pieces. With no new markets opening up, Mr Montgomery has the choice of selling out or using the group's ample cashflow to finance a share buyback: the latter is more likely. At the very least, a share buyback will buy him more time.



RMC

RMC GROUP is becoming a play on a German recovery. Fears of a weakening in the German construction market next year, combined with an expected slowdown in UK growth, cut 5 per cent from the share price.

The half-year figures from RMC's German business look misleadingly positive. Profits rose by a quarter to £35.5 million, even after the £7.1 million impact from the strong ground. However, this largely reflects the 1996 results. RMC believes the underlying picture is a 4 to 6 per cent fall in German construction volumes, and this will come into focus during the more important second half. After another fall of perhaps 2 per cent next year, it hopes to see a recovery in 1999.

While the share price reaction is understandable, RMC is entitled to its seen-it-all-before insouciance. As the

management never tires of emphasising, Germany is a huge market and RMC is well placed to take advantage of its eventual revival — not least through the Rüdersdorf cement plant near Berlin. In the meantime, it is making good progress in the benign UK environment and in the rest of Europe, despite the intractable problems of the French economy.

At 98p the shares are unlikely to race away, but the company remains as solid as its concrete. This latest weakness makes the shares more attractive.

Kwik-Fit

IF INSURERS needed any more evidence that the public regards their brands with contempt, they should look at Kwik-Fit. From a standing start, and within two years, a chain of exhaust repair shops has become the sixth-largest purveyor of motor insurance, making a profit of £3 million in a half year. This is, in part,

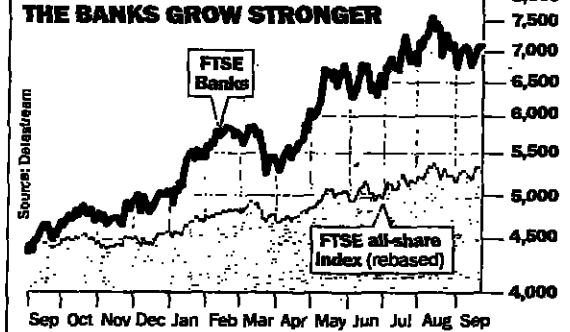
the power of a brand which has instant recognition among motorists. However, the unlikely success indicates the extent to which insurance has become a commodity that sells on price, convenience and service.

Anyone thinking of quitting Kwik-Fit should question whether there is any reason why its insurance arm should not quickly move up the ladder in terms of market share. The only barrier is likely to be resistance from other insurers, but there is no shortage of underwriting capacity, this being an overcapitalised industry.

A frosty winter would wonder for Kwik-Fit which, because of its high fixed cost base, enjoys geared profits growth when revenues increase. However, the company is also showing signs of much better cashflow and will need to think of special dividends if current trends continue.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

ABSENCE OF SELLERS MAKES THE BANKS GROW STRONGER



THE bank sector was up and running again, improving on its spectacular performance already this year. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, started the ball rolling by recommending Standard Chartered, up 41p at 858 1/2p, as a "buy" to clients.

James Johnson, at Laing, said the discount between Standard and HSBC, 2 1/2p firmer at £19.61, had grown to 10 per cent — the widest it would be expected to reach.

"We decided the shares should be bought. A differential of about 10 per cent more than accounts for the

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Long Gilt: 117.18-118.15 117.18-118.08 1953
Previous open interest 17675
German Govt Bond (Bund): 102.41 102.85 102.38 102.74 20374
Previous open interest 27427
Italian Govt Bond (BTP): 110.59 111.50 110.55 111.40 64610
Previous open interest 11120
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB): 126.57 127.20 126.57 127.20 2050
Previous open interest 15498
Three Mth Eurodollar: 92.63 92.63 92.63 92.63 30818
Previous open interest 15498
Three Mth Euribor: 92.63 92.63 92.63 92.63 30818
Previous open interest 15498
Three Mth Eurodollar: 92.63 92.63 92.63 92.63 30818
Previous open interest 15498
Three Mth Euribor: 92.63 92.63 92.63 92.63 30818
Previous open interest 15498

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates Clearing Banks 7 Finance Rate 7
Discount Market Loans Overnight 8 1/2
Treasury Bills (Daily): 2 mth 5 1/2, 3 mth 5 1/2, 6 mth 5 1/2, 12 mth 5 1/2

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency 7 day 1 mth 3 mth 6 mth 12 mth

Dollar 5 1/2 5 1/2 5 1/2 5 1/2 5 1/2

French Franc 5 1/2 5 1/2 5 1/2 5 1/2 5 1/2

Swiss Franc 5 1/2 5 1/2 5 1/2 5 1/2 5 1/2

Yen 5 1/2 5 1/2 5 1/2 5 1/2 5 1/2

Local Authority Deposits: 7 7 7 7 7

Sterling CDs: 7 7 7 7 7

Dollar CDs: 7 7 7 7 7

Building Society CDs: 7 7 7 7 7

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open \$1300.3200 Close \$1299.3200 High \$1300.3200 Low \$1299.3200

Amsterdam: \$320.32-322.25 £108.50-108.50

Philadelphia: \$320.32-322.25 £108.50-108.50

London: \$320.32-322.25 £108.50-108.50

Gold: \$320.32-322.25 £108.50-108.50

Silver: \$320.32-322.25 £108.50-108.50

Palladium: \$320.32-322.25 £108.50-108.50

Platinum: \$320.32-322.25 £108.50-108.50

Gold: \$320.32-322.25 £108.50-108.50

Silver: \$320.32-322.25 £108.50-108.50

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Palladium: \$320.32-322.25 £108.50-108.50

Platinum: \$320.32-322.25 £108.50-108.50

Gold: \$320.32-322.25 £108.50-108.50

DOLLAR RATES

Australia: 1.3947-1.3946
Canada: 1.2432-1.2434
Denmark: 6.7680-6.7685
France: 6.5810-6.5815
Germany: 1.7670-1.7674
Hong Kong: 7.7437-7.7439
Italy: 1.4912-1.4914
Japan: 126.50-126.52
Netherlands: 1.9004-1.9014
Norway: 7.1817-7.1820
Sweden: 6.4612-6.4614
Singapore: 1.5170-1.5181
Spain: 169.22-169.25
Switzerland: 1.4584-1.4593

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso: 1.6135-1.6142
Austria dollar: 1.3527-1.3529
Belgian franc: 0.5950-0.5952
Brazilian cruzeiro: 1.7010-1.7012
Canadian dollar: 1.5105-1.5107
Cypriot pound: 0.4200-0.4202
Danish krone: 0.4050-0.4052
Deutsche mark: 0.4200-0.4202
Euro: 0.4200-0.4202
Finnish markka: 0.0004-0.0004
French franc: 0.0163-0.0163
Hong Kong dollar: 0.0078-0.0078
Indian rupee: 0.0150-0.0150
Indonesian rupiah: 0.0000-0.0000
Israeli sheqel: 0.0000-0.0000
Japanese yen: 0.0094-0.0094
Korean won: 0.0000-0.0000
Kuwait dinar: 0.0000-0.0000
Lithuanian litas: 0.0000-0.0000
Malaysian ringgit: 0.0000-0.0000
Mexican peso: 0.0000-0.0000
New Zealand dollar: 0.4200-0.4202
New Taiwan dollar: 0.0000-0.0000
Pakistan rupee: 0.0000-0.0000
Philippine peso: 0.0000-0.0000
Polish zloty: 0.0000-0.0000
Portuguese escudo: 0.0000-0.0000
Romanian leu: 0.0000-0.0000
Russian ruble: 0.0000-0.0000
Singapore dollar: 0.0000-0.0000
South African rand: 0.0000-0.0000
South Korean won: 0.0000-0.0000
Spanish peseta: 0.0000-0.0000
Swedish krona: 0.0000-0.0000
Swiss franc: 0.0000-0.0000
Taiwan dollar: 0.0000-0.0000
Thai baht: 0.0000-0.0000
Turkish lira: 0.0000-0.0000
U.S. dollar: 0.0000-0.0000
Vietnamese dong: 0.0000-0.0000

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Barclays Bank GTS / LLOYD

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

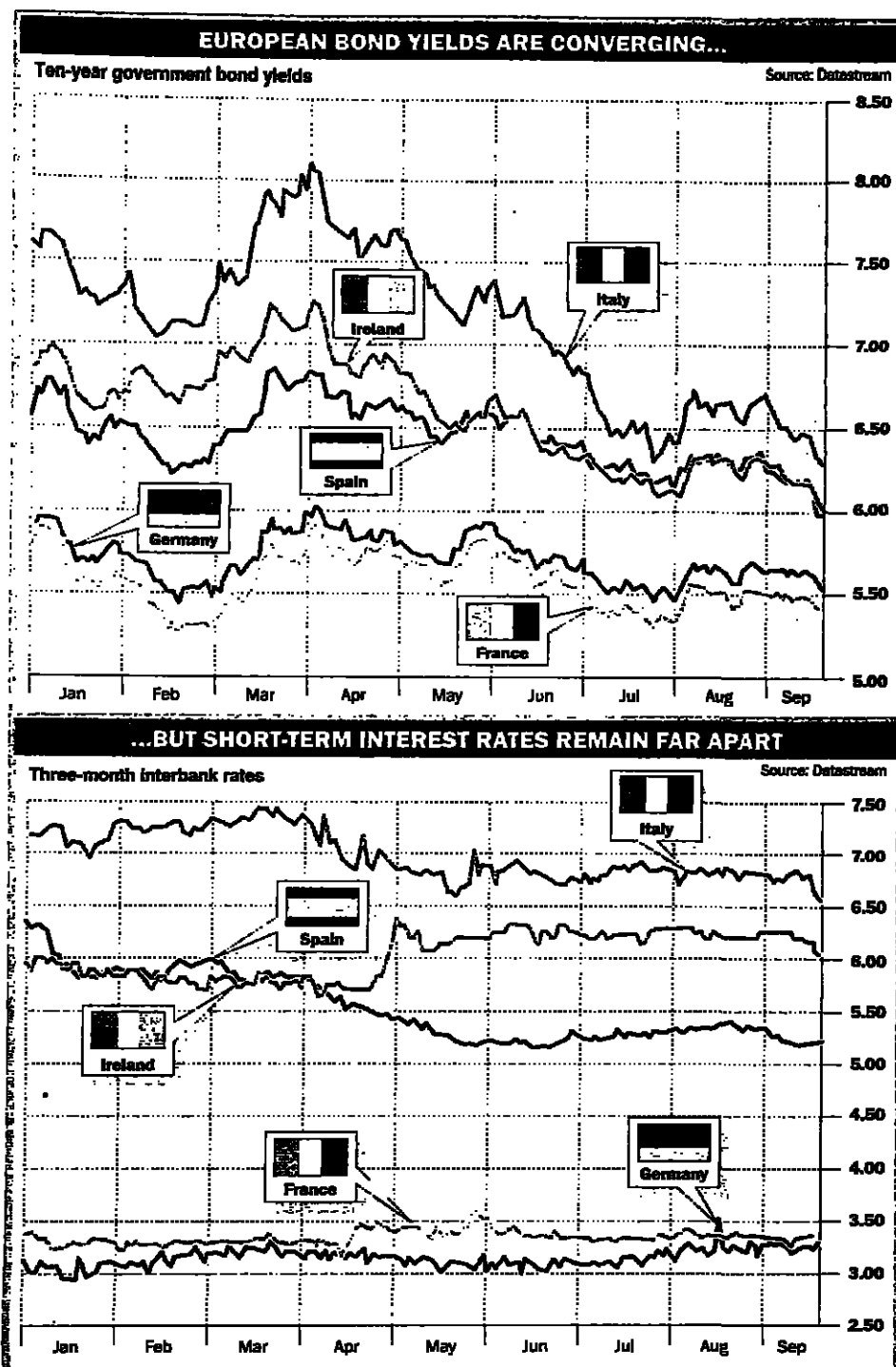
A strong pound is the best protection against EMU

Argument over divergent interest levels has important implications for Europe

The Bundesbank decision yesterday to keep its interest rates unchanged at 3 per cent may have pleased financial markets and must surely have delighted the French and German Governments. But for some European politicians, the Bundesbank's reluctance is becoming a source of embarrassment and economic distress. The clearest case is, of course, the British Government, which would be delighted if higher German interest rates were to bring the strong pound back down to earth. But now there are even stranger bedfellows for the monetary hard-liners on the Bundesbank council. Bizarrely, the Governments of Italy, Spain, Ireland, Portugal and Finland have all now joined the British Government and the Bank of England in hoping that German interest rates will soon go up.

To see why this is so and to understand the profound implications of this shift in alliances for the future of Europe — and for Britain's future relationship with the single currency — we can start with a rather technical question. If European monetary union is going to be irrevocably launched in May next year, as European governments announced over the weekend and as almost everyone in the worlds of finance and politics now firmly believes, why are German and Italian three-month interest rates still more than three percentage points apart? This seemingly narrow question contains within it many of the most interesting economic and political conundrums about the European economy, as I realised last weekend in talking to senior officials from Frankfurt, Paris and Brussels at a conference on EMU at Ditchley Park.

There are broadly two possible reasons for the continuing divergence between Italian and German rates. It could be that Italian and Spanish interest rates remain much higher than German ones because the markets do not yet quite believe that the Club Med countries will be allowed to join in the first wave of EMU. Alternatively, it may be that Italian (and Spanish) interest rates are being deliberately kept apart for good economic reasons. It may be that Italy and Spain need high interest rates to control inflation, while German (and French) rates must be kept down to mitigate unemployment and revive economic growth. If the first explanation is correct, then the single currency should be able to start smoothly. Mediterranean interest rates will fall



gradually as the starting date for EMU approaches and the markets become increasingly confident that Italy and Spain will take part. There will be no pressure on Germany and France to raise their interest rates before 1999 and EMU will get off to a good start with low interest rates, a competitive euro and robust economic growth.

The second explanation, on the other hand, suggests profound misgivings. It suggests that the single interest rate required under EMU will impose an inappropriate monetary policy either on Germany and France or on Italy and Spain. It also implies that Germany and France will have to raise their interest rates significantly in preparation for EMU. This monetary tightening could damage the recoveries that are only just starting in both these economies. Higher interest rates could also push the mark up against the dollar and yen, bequeathing an overvalued euro which would have to be defended with still further monetary tightening after 1999.

by the newly created European Central Bank.

How, then, should we explain the divergence between Italian and German rates? The first explanation — that investors remain uncertain about EMU — may sound plausible, but it is not. Although short-term rates in Germany and Italy remain far apart, there has been a dramatic convergence in long-term bond yields, which are a much better measure of market expectations than officially determined short rates. The implication of this convergence in bond markets is clear: investors have reached the firm conclusion that monetary union will go ahead in January 1999 with all EU countries apart from Britain, Denmark, Sweden and Greece.

Why, then, do interest rates in Italy, Spain and Ireland remain so high and why can't they be reduced quickly? If you ask central bankers in any of these countries they give the same answer — and one which the Bank of England would enthusiastically echo. Relatively high interest rates are needed to maintain low inflation.

Reducing interest rates to the "artificially low" levels now seen in the Franco-German core of Europe would unleash consumer booms and speculative financial bubbles in the peripheral European countries. Such monetary easing would put at risk all the anti-inflationary achievements of the past five years. One of the strange ironies of the EMU endgame is that Italy and Spain will be arguing for higher interest rates, while the proponents of an easier monetary policy will be hard currency countries such as France.

The French, who are absolutely determined not to increase their interest rates in preparation for EMU, oppose this argument from peripheral Europe with a vehemence that is only just becoming clear. They have broadly two ripostes, both of them painful to the peripheral countries that argue that German interest rates will have to converge upwards to meet those in Italy, Ireland and Spain.

The first is that peripheral countries that cannot live with 3 or 3.5 per cent interest rates may simply have to stay out of

EMU. Despite Lionel Jospin's insistent demands for Italian membership of EMU during the French election campaign, French officials are willing to question Italy's readiness to join the club. The whole point of EMU, they argue, was to create a club of non-inflationary countries with the highest possible monetary credibility and the lowest possible interest rates. This means that the euro must be seen as a natural successor of the mark and franc, with the same monetary policy. Euro interest rates cannot be set by "splitting the difference" between the mark and the lira.

The second riposte to suggestions for upward convergence of European interest rates is less brutal, but just as challenging for the peripheral countries that currently feel they need high interest rates. If Italy, Spain and the others fear the inflationary consequences of sharply lower rates, they should take other steps to deflate their economies — they should raise taxes or cut public spending even more aggressively than they already plan.

There is another, even more controversial way of suppressing inflation, which I have never heard officials mention in public, but which some market observers are starting to discuss. If countries like Spain and Ireland were really worried about inflation, they could always revalue their currencies upwards against the mark and the franc when the final conversion rates are set next May. If the peripheral countries joined EMU with higher than expected exchange rates against the euro, they might experience a once and for all deflation like the one that hit Britain in 1990 when John Major joined the ERM. This crushing of inflationary expectations would allow the peripheral countries to live with German and French-style interest rates. France and Germany, meanwhile, would enjoy an improvement in competitiveness against some of their main trading partners. Spain, Italy and Ireland will naturally resist such suggestions for currency revaluation — and in the end they are likely to succeed, if only because the French and Germans will be mindful of the financial instability unleashed when Britain joined the ERM at an overvalued exchange rate.

There could however be several important implications of these arguments, particularly for Britain. The first is that Germany is unlikely to raise its interest rate towards the Italian or Spanish levels, thereby relieving upward pressure on the pound. The second is that membership of EMU will not be a panacea for an overvalued pound. If Britain ever decides to join EMU it will not be allowed to devalue the pound as part of this process. And that, in turn, suggests another of the bizarre ironies of the EMU endgame: that Britain's best bulwark against any temptation to join EMU could be an overly strong pound.

Barbara Roche, the Small Firms Minister, was there. Labour shadow ministers used to turn up regularly before the election to speak at the Institute. But since they took power on May 1, the fiercely free-market IoD has not managed to entice a single one.

Big business is copping up fast to the new Government: the CBI conference in November will feature more ministers than most Labour Party gatherings. The CBI's rival locked, until yesterday, way out in the cold, so there was a tangible sense of relief at the IoD's plush Pall Mall HQ at the Roche presence.

MARTIN WALLER



Barbara Roche is the first Labour Minister since the election to go to the IoD.

Collection "artists" for sale. Plus, in the curiosity corner, paintings by Stalin's great grandson, "executed" — an unfortunate choice of words — whilst at Glasgow Art School. The pictures, that is, not the great grandson.

ON A less artistic note, Barclays, not content with having made its monthly Barclaycard statements almost illegible on the advice of the design merchants, now plans to do the same with ordinary bank accounts. The bank is trying out some new personal financial summaries alongside normal bank statements. I search for the real reason for this "innovation". Ah ha. If you have more than £100 in your account over the period, you will be offered financial advice, unsought, on what to do with it. Such as stuffing it in one of the Barclays savings accounts. And if you've almost paid off your loan, they offer you another one. Freephone number provided.

IoD den

NOT since Shirley, now Baroness, Williams in 1975 has a Labour minister dared address company bosses at the Institute of Directors. And some might say she wasn't terribly Labour. But yesterday,



collection of modern British art built up by Barclays Bank, a project close to the heart of its chairman, Andrew Buxton. Most has been bought since 1991, on the basis of what he personally liked and what he thought Barclays staff would like. So the good news is that this is modern art as in people with paintbrushes applying paint onto canvas. Expect names such as Lowry and Sickert at the bank's loan exhibition at the Royal College of Art at Kensington Gore from next Wednesday. No pickled sharks, no pornographic photomontages and nothing to do with Charles Saatchi.

The bad news is that there might be a bit of that elsewhere at the RCA fair, which has work from several Saatchi

Bank of art

NEXT week also offers the first chance to see some of the

Blind eye

ANOTHER former Cabinet member has found a new salary, sorry, job in the real world. Anthony Nelson is joining Salomon Brothers as managing director of European investment banking. Nelson, 49, was a minister at the DTI and before that Economic Secretary to the Treasury. By going to the American securities house he has administered a bit of a back-hander to his former employer, NM Rothschild, which he left in 1974 to go into politics. I am told he did not



"Phew! for one awful second I thought you were selling pensions!"

even talk to Rothschild when he decided to head back to the City. His decision may have been influenced by the seven-figure salaries on offer at Salomon, not matched at a smaller British bank. I put the point to the Americans. There ensues a lot of corporate guff about global-breadth business, powerful market positions in Asia and so on. But no one is exactly denying it.

THIS is the sort of thing that gave Marie Antoinette a bad name. Luxury Briefing, a publication devoted to various items you and I don't need and can't afford, is presenting an award for the best British luxury company next week at Asprey, where else, at a party full of gossip column nonentities — Lulu Guinness, Mogens Tholstrup, the usual grim crew. The prize is "an unusual trophy in the form of a solid silver and silver gilt shopping bag". How very Eighties, darling. Conspicuous consumption is so passé.

Marriage made in accountants' minds still shy of consent

Robert Bruce on what could prove to be the last great merger within the profession

Cricket fans, lifting their eyes from the action at Lord's this summer, might have noticed that the accountants Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand have adjoining hospitality boxes in the Mound Stand. It would be nice to think that the talks which led to yesterday's announcement of the coming together of the two accounting giants, in what has the potential to be the world's largest accounting firm, started with a chat over a balcony rail.

But the reality of the accountancy world is very different to the gentlemanly image partnership structures like to portray. The driving force for the merger was pressures deep within the US accounting scene, the most important of which is regulation.

The last time a mega merger was achieved in the accounting world — when Deloitte, Haskins & Sells came together with Touche Ross in 1989 — the main issue was that of the tough American regulatory laws. That time the merger got through by the skin of its teeth. This time it is going to be difficult.

In the words of one member of the team, which has been working day and night on the legal aspects of the proposed Coopers & Waterhouse merger, "this could be the last time a merger like this is allowed". The American regulatory structure tolerated the last moves, which whittled down what had been a "big eight" of top accountancy firms to a "big six".

At Coopers & Waterhouse they have calculated that the American authorities might tolerate one more merger, but would then stick with a "big five" as the smallest number of dominant firms that they would allow.

This would make the proposed merger a masterstroke. Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand could merge and become the largest firm globally, in the US and in the UK. And the move would put a stop to any further mergers among their competitors, who would all be stuck, like flies in amber, unable to grow through merger ever again.

In the UK the regulatory issues are equally strong. Coopers, whose chairman is Peter Smith, is currently the second-biggest firm. Price Waterhouse is the fifth-biggest firm. But they also have a strong line in blue chip audit clients. The result of the merger in the UK would be that the firm would become

the biggest in the land, but it would also have half the audits of the companies in the FTSE 100.

Under the Conservative government the policy was that accountancy firms were one of the country's great success stories and growth, even when it neared the edge of the competition guidelines, was allowed. Under the gaze of Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, the story may be very different.

Officials are holding their cards close to their chests at the moment and are not sure whether the merger would come under the aegis of the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) or, because of its size, be referred straight to Brussels.

The other American pressure driving this merger is market share. In America, Coopers and Price Waterhouse are the fifth and sixth-biggest firms. The pressure is always going to be greatest on the firms in the bottom slots to get together and so leapfrog their way to the top. And it is given added impetus when the firm you are knocking off the top is Arthur Andersen, long seen as the unchallengeable giant but now wrestling with a consultancy arm and an audit and business assurance

arm at seemingly endless loggerheads.

Meanwhile, the real work to pull off the merger now has to begin. Regulatory pressures from government agencies can seem to be the least of your problems when you are trying to persuade more than \$500 around the world to vote for the proposals. The majority required, two thirds of all partners at Price Waterhouse in the UK, for example, is tough to achieve.

In particular, there must be worries about Price Waterhouse in the UK, where partners have a history of voting down merger proposals. In 1984 they humiliated their own leadership by voting against a proposal to merge with Deloitte. In 1989 they failed to consummate a merger with Arthur Andersen.

This time around there are already rumours of partners reacting with fury when the story that broke the news in *The Times* was confirmed.

The final worry is how far the two businesses will suffer through management upheaval should the merger go through. Nick Land, senior partner of Ernst & Young, has argued that a lack of resources is the real problem facing the big accounting firms — there are simply not enough experienced partners, managers and specialists to go round.

Mergers always create uncertainty and when the market is buoyant disaffected staff tend to head elsewhere. "Judging by the way that Coopers handled their last merger, we will fill our resource bucket," said Mr Land.



Ian Brindle, left, of Waterhouse, and Peter Smith yesterday

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Sun Life reveals £48m cost of merger

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

SUN LIFE & PROVINCIAL, which merged with AXA Equity & Law two months ago to form the third-largest group in the UK life and pensions market, unveiled a 17 per cent rise in operating profit yesterday.

Sun Life expects annual cost savings of £37 million in three years' time but reckons most of the benefits of the merger will materialise next year. The cost of bringing the two companies together in July is expected to total £48 million, most of which will be included in the full-year accounts.

The group gave no further information about the fate of New Ireland, in which it has a

majority stake, but reiterated a statement it made to the Dublin stock market on Friday that it was talking to interested parties who had made approaches.

Under Irish stock exchange laws Sun Life must offer at least 25 per cent of its shares as a free float to maintain an Irish listing.

The insurer revealed Equity & Law had set aside a £32 million provision to compensate victims of personal pensions mis-selling.

The company has just over 1,000 priority cases and said it is "confident" that it will have sorted out 90 per cent of these ahead of the deadline set by the Personal Investment Authority at the end of the year.

Mark Wood, chief executive, said the merger, which created a company ranked number three in size behind Prudential and Standard Life, would not create the need for large redundancies.

The Marquess of Douro, chairman, said he was "cautiously optimistic" about prospects for the second half of the year, after some changes to the way Sun Life products were priced and sold.

The company has just reopened discussions with the Department of Trade & Industry in the hope of releasing some of the surplus "orphan" assets from Equity & Law's life fund.

Britannic, a fellow insurer, earlier this week paid an enhanced dividend to shareholders after the release of £1 billion of assets from its orphan funds.

Mr Wood said any proceeds from orphan assets would be paid out "over 30 years or so". For the six months to June 30, operating profit rose to £121.4 million (1996: £103.6 million). Sun Life is paying a slightly larger than expected dividend of 3.8p per share. The company's shares rose 8½p to 419p yesterday.

Profits beat expectations at Nestlé

SHARES in Nestlé, the world's biggest food company, rose \$Fr100 (£42) to \$Fr1,960 after the company reported a rise in net profits from \$Fr1,347 billion to \$Fr1,89 billion. Analysts had expected a rise of half that amount.

Nestlé predicted that for the full year, sales would grow 15 per cent and the rise in net profit would at least match the growth in sales. Nestlé had already reported a rise in first-half sales to \$Fr33.5 billion, from \$Fr28.4 billion.

The company said first-half results "clearly benefited" from the appreciation of most currencies against the Swiss franc. It added that the significant improvement "is in large measure also a consequence of the efforts and investments aimed at improving the group's competitiveness".



The strip worn by Leeds United was at the centre of complaints about kit price-fixing

OFT kicks kit suppliers' price-fixing into touch

By CHRIS AYRES

TWO leading players in Britain's £200 million replica football shirt industry were forced by the Office of Fair Trading to promise to end illegal price-fixing.

Puma and Asics, the current and former sponsors of Leeds United, the Premiership team, admitted they had been forcing retailers to stop discounting replica team strips by threatening to cut off supplies.

Sportswear manufacturers — notably Umbro, sponsors of Manchester United — have also come under fire for boosting their sales by changing the design of team strips on an overly regular basis.

It emerged yesterday that several other sportswear manufacturers, including Ellesse, have also given assurances to the OFT that they will not attempt to maintain artificially high prices.

The OFT campaign against price-fixing started this year after a Leeds retailer claimed that he had been blacklisted by suppliers for selling Leeds United shirts at a discount.

Philip Warrington, 41, who owns two sportswear shops with a turnover of more than £1 million, said: "They basically told me to put my price up or kiss goodbye to my supply."

Mr Warrington sells Leeds United shirts, which usually cost between £35 and £40, at £25. Every year he sells about 1,000 Leeds shirts.

John Bridgeman, the Director General of Fair Trading, said: "The results of the campaign have proved it to have been amply justified."

Morrison set to tighten belt

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

COMPETITION among Britain's supermarkets will be fierce for the rest of this year in the areas of price, services and shopping hours, according to the chairman of William Morrison, the supermarket group based in Yorkshire.

"I think it's going to be a tough scene and, whilst people appear to be spending a little more money, I think we've got to expect to be tightening our belts a little bit and looking for

economies in operations," said Ken Morrison, chairman.

The company turned in an 11.8 per cent rise in first-half pre-tax profits to £61.7 million and said sales in the first six weeks of the second half were up 3.4 per cent, compared with 1.3 per cent in the first half.

Mr Morrison said that food prices should remain flat or slightly lower during the second half.

The company will be concentrating on its large-format unit with a "Market Street" theme, which aims to recreate the atmosphere of a busy street market. Four new stores are set to open in the second half, taking the total to 86.

The company said that the link-up with Midland Bank to provide banking facilities in stores had boosted customer numbers and increased "the satisfaction of the people who shop with us anyway".

William Morrison linked up with Midland, part of HSBC Holdings, in March to follow a trend among supermarkets to add financial services to their business. The company has four units operating currently and plans to open another five this year.

The company will pay an interim dividend of 0.4p (0.325p), on November 10. Its shares rose 9½p yesterday to close at 197p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

French Connection continues expansion

FRENCH CONNECTION, the fashion chain, is planning an aggressive expansion programme in spite of its chairman's prediction that there will soon be a "tightening up" of the British retail market. The company, which was recently forced to tone down a controversial £1 million advertising campaign, plans to expand and move several of its existing stores and open five others, including two in the US and one in Newcastle. David Bernstein, French Connection's chairman, said: "I would say the market is tightening, but our position in that market will not be affected. We will see a lot of casualties in the near future because companies do not realise how discerning customers are becoming."

French Connection reported an 81 per cent rise in pre-tax profits from £1.7 million to £3.1 million in the six months ended July 31, on turnover of £42 million, up 14 per cent from £37 million. Earnings per share more than doubled, from 4p to 9.7p, and an interim dividend of 0.75p, compared with 0.5p, will be paid on October 30.

Canning price falls

SHARES in W Canning, the speciality chemicals group, fell from 26½p to 25½p despite a rise in pre-tax profits from £4.4 million to £4.6 million in the six months to June 30. Earnings per share rose from 9.9p to 10.5p, out of which the dividend rises from 3.4p to 3.7p. David Probert, the chairman, said first-half progress was satisfactory. He added that exchange-rate movement masked what could have been an 11.1 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, compared with the 4.1 per cent actual increase.

Servisair drops

SERVISAIR, the ground handling group, saw its shares fall from 365½p to 332½p after reporting pre-tax profits down from £926,000 to £102,000 in the six months to June 30 on sales up from £69.7 million to £73.6 million. The company said that the first six months' trading are not indicative of the full year because of the peak weighting of trading in the summer months. Analysts blamed withdrawal of several operators from Gatwick and pressure on charge rates. The half-year dividend rises 6 per cent to 1.75p a share. There is a loss per share of 0.1p (1.0p).

Tibbitt & Britten ahead

TIBBETT & BRITTEN, the international logistics and supply chain management group, saw pre-tax profits rise 9 per cent to £11.6 million (£10.6 million) in the six months to June 28. Turnover surged 23 per cent to £417.1 million. Almost 90 per cent of the increased turnover was the result of newly won contracts in addition to a high level of contract renewals in the UK and North America. Earnings per share were up 7.5 per cent to 17.1p (15.9p). An interim dividend of 5.5p (5.2p) is due to be paid on November 12.

British Borneo up 10%

BRITISH Borneo Petroleum Syndicate, the oil exploration company, intends to increase its search for new opportunities outside its two core areas of the Gulf of Mexico and the North Sea. The new focus comes as British Borneo steps up its investment in deep water projects with £500 million of capital expenditure budgeted over the next four years. A delayed start to production for the Durward and Dauntless oilfields in the North Sea left profits after tax up just 10 per cent to £8.9 million. Earnings rose slightly to 4.5p; the dividend is unchanged at 1p.

Names signed up

GREENWICH INSURANCE Holdings, promoter of the biggest of the Lloyd's conversion schemes, aimed at enabling names to underwrite with limited liability, has signed up 120 names, representing about £50 million in capacity. The scheme has gone unconditional, but remains open to acceptances until October 3. Another conversion scheme, backed by Stace Barr Angerstein, has attracted at least £33 million from 90 names, and remains open to applicants until September 26.

Rail report delayed

THE Government has agreed to an extension of the time allowed for the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to report on the acquisition by National Express of the Scotrail and Central Trains rail franchises. The Department of Trade and Industry said: "After representations from the MMC that detailed and time-consuming route-by-route analysis of numerous overlaps between rail and coach services has been entailed in both inquiries, the Trade Secretary has concluded that the reporting period should in both instances be extended to October 3, 1997."

Fired up at Fired Earth

FIRE EARTH, the ceramics, floor-coverings and fabrics group, raised pre-tax profits from £254,000 to £523,000 in the six months to June 30 on sales up from £3.5 million to £5 million. The interim dividend rises from 1.1p to 1.2p out of earnings up from 3.0p to 6.2p. The company says that the second half has started well, and the shares rose 21½p to 26½p in response. Nicholas Kneale, chairman, added that Fire Earth expected to have 27 showrooms by the start of 1998, marking "a 50 per cent increase in outlets during 1997".

MEPT buyback plan

MERCURY ASSET MANAGEMENT is embarking on a second bid to boost the share price of its flagship European Privatisation Trust with a proposal to buy back up to 15 per cent of the fund's shares. Despite purchasing 67.3 million MEPT shares since January 1996 MAM has seen shares in the £930 million trust stick stubbornly at a 13 per cent discount to net asset value. However, it is now at a par with most other investment trusts, whose discounts have widened in the same period.

Whirlpool Corp to shed 4,700 jobs

By OUR CITY STAFF

WHIRLPOOL Corporation is to shed about 4,700 jobs in Asia, Europe and North America. These companies also plan to increase efficiencies in their European operations through product consolidations and facility closings, while seeking strategic alliances or other alternatives for two Chinese joint ventures.

In connection with these changes, the company expects a pre-tax charge of about \$350 million in the third quarter. In addition, Whirlpool is to acquire a controlling interest in Brasmotor, its Latin American affiliate, for \$217 million.

Whirlpool also said that it would sell the inventory and some other assets of its Whirlpool Financial Corp unit, which is expected to have a positive impact of about 53 cents. The job cuts, facility closures and product consolidations in

Europe, are expected to bring annual savings of about \$180 million (£112 million), when fully implemented in 2000.

The sale of some aspects of Whirlpool Financial Corp unit to Transamerica Corp, and the sale of most of the unit's aerospace business to an unnamed party are expected to generate about \$1.6 billion, or about \$300 million after repayment of debt.

David Whitman, Whirlpool chief executive, said: "We have made outstanding progress over the last several years in building our position as the global leader in the major home appliance business... Today we are taking steps to further refine and strengthen our global network, improve our operating performance and align the organisation with the marketplace realities of our industry."

Share split planned by Tilbury

TILBURY DOUGLAS, the building and construction group, raised pre-tax profits from £8 million to £9.2 million in the six months to June 30 and now plans a share split (George Sirell writes).

Earnings per share rose from 16.5p to 18.1p and the half-year dividend was up to 7.5p (7p). Sales rose 4 per cent to £241 million. Mike Botter, chairman, said all the company's core businesses had achieved double-digit growth in pre-tax profits, operating profits and in earnings per share since 1993.

The performance during the first six months, coupled with encouraging prospects made him confident about growth in the second half and beyond.

Tilbury's directors are proposing a share split on the basis of five new shares of 10p for every two existing shares of 20p. An extraordinary meeting will be held on October 31 to consider the proposal.

The shares rose 2½p to 590p in response.

Ultraframe float to benefit staff

AROUND 460 staff at Ultraframe will share about £10 million from the stock market flotation of the conservatory roof company.

The company is expected to be valued at £100 million and staff own 10 per cent of the shares. Around 80 per cent is owned by the family of John Lancaster, the founder and vice-chairman. A 35 per cent holding is to be sold in the flotation; 45 per cent will be held for at least two years.

Ultraframe yesterday issued the pathfinder, listing particulars for its proposed flotation, which will be via a placing of existing ordinary shares. It is expected that full details of the placing will be announced next month. For the 44 weeks to August 1, 1997, Ultraframe made pre-tax profit before exceptional costs of £9.78 million on turnover of £44.02 million. It estimates pre-tax profit before exceptional costs of not less than £12.75 million in the year to September 26, up 67 per cent on the previous year.

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G4 The Games Factory 69.99 39.95

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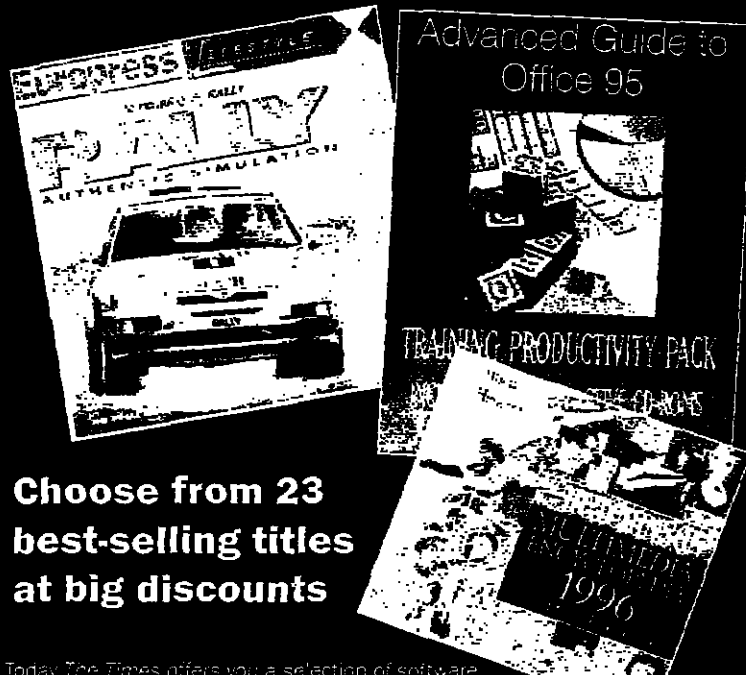
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
40.1	39.8	Adnams Ltd	40.1	+0.3	0.7	14.2
40.1	39.8	Adnams Ltd	40.1	+0.3	0.7	14.2
40.1	39.8	Adnams Ltd	40.1	+0.3	0.7	14.2
40.1	39.8	Adnams Ltd	40.1	+0.3	0.7	14.2
40.1	39.8	Adnams Ltd	40.1	+0.3	0.7	14.2

BANKS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
152.1	151.8	Bank of Scotland	152.1	+0.3	0.2	12.6
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152.1	151.8	Bank of Scotland	152.1	+0.3	0.2	12.6
152.1	151.8	Bank of Scotland	152.1	+0.3	0.2	12.6
152.1	151.8	Bank of Scotland	152.1	+0.3	0.2	12.6

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
67.0	66.8	Beck's & Co	67.0	+0.2	0.3	18.8
67.0	66.8	Beck's & Co	67.0	+0.2	0.3	18.8
67.0	66.8	Beck's & Co	67.0	+0.2	0.3	18.8
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BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
32.1	31.9	W. H. Smith	32.1	+0.2	0.6	11.7
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BUILDING MATERIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
11.1	11.0	W. H. Smith	11.1	+0.1	0.9	11.7
11.1	11.0	W. H. Smith	11.1	+0.1	0.9	11.7
11.1	11.0	W. H. Smith	11.1	+0.1	0.9	11.7
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17.1	17.0	W. H. Smith	17.1	+0.1	0.6	11.7
17.1	17.0	W. H. Smith	17.1	+0.1	0.6	11.7

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
11.1	11.0	W. H. Smith	11.1	+0.1	0.9	11.7
11.1	11.0	W. H. Smith	11.1	+0.1	0.9	11.7
11.1	11.0	W. H. Smith	11.1	+0.1	0.9	11.7
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FOOD MANUFACTURERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
11.1	11.0	W. H. Smith	11.1	+0.1	0.9	11.7
11.1	11.0	W. H. Smith	11.1	+0.1	0.9	11.7
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11.1	11.0	W. H. Smith	11.1	+0.1	0.9	11.7

HEALTHCARE

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
11.1	11.0	W. H. Smith	11.1	+0.1	0.9	11.7
11.1	11.0	W. H. Smith	11.1	+0.1	0.9	11.7
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HOUSEHOLD GOODS

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11.1	11.0	W. H. Smith	11.1	+0.1	0.9	11.7
11.1	11.0	W. H. Smith	11.1	+0.1	0.9	11.7
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INSURANCE

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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11.1	11.0	W. H. Smith	11.1	+0.1	0.9	11.7
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11.1	11.0	W. H. Smith	11.1	+0.1	0.9	11.7

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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LEISURE & HOTELS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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OIL & GAS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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This is becoming a bad month for conductors. Sir Georg Solti died a fortnight ago. Now comes word that Klaus Tennstedt is gravely ill. Tennstedt didn't shake the musical firmament as Solti did. His time at the top was tragically short; his recordings relatively few. But for a glorious spell in the 1980s he gave London the most life-affirming concerts I ever expect to hear.

Both his career and his health were battered by innumerable blows of malign fate. Yet time again he triumphed over adversity, and all his performances proclaimed the scars of his struggle. That was the essence of their terrible, compelling glory. I doubt whether I shall ever encounter another conductor so capable of embodying both the frailty of man and the greatness of mankind. To journey with Tennstedt through Mahler or Beethoven — the turbulent souls with whom he most closely identified — was to penetrate the heart of darkness, and to emerge as if reborn.

He took amazing risks that often

A show of courage on the podium

didn't work. He could be infuriatingly negligent about such mundane matters as keeping the orchestra together. And his interpretations were prone to colossal exaggerations of speed and dynamics. Lenny Bernstein was a figure of monastic restraint by comparison. "Neurosis in Disneyland," I whined on these pages in 1986, having staggered away from a Tennstedt performance that distressed my delicate sensibilities. Today I wish that I could eat those words. What would I give, what would any music lover give, to have Tennstedt back in the Festival Hall? God knows, there has been nothing like him since.

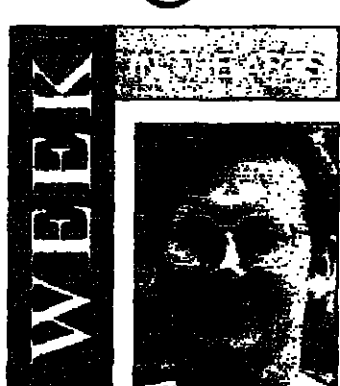
He told me that the secret of conducting was to reveal "the big line, the line that draws together all the thousands of tiny details". Was he speaking in purely musical terms? I think not. When Elgar was asked what his First Sympho-

ny was about, he replied "a man's attitude to life". Tennstedt's "big line" was an attitude to life as well.

It was some life. He could have been a top-class violinist, but a growth between the knuckles of his fingering hand put an end to that, even before he had finished his studies in postwar Leipzig. One dream shattered, he picked himself up, switched to conducting — and promptly sank into 20 years of obscurity in the grey ranks of East Germany's state music system.

Not until he and his wife Inge fled to the West in 1971 did he achieve international fame: a stupendous debut with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 1974 was the turning-point. By then he was nearly 50. If a Tennstedt performance sounded like a man desperately trying to compress a lifetime into a few minutes, that is exactly what it was.

Then followed a decade, no



RICHARD MORRISON

more, of triumph. Fortunately for us, Tennstedt developed a rapport with the London Philharmonic, and became its principal conductor in 1980. He was endearingly bigoted. He dismissed all period-instrument performers as "gang-

sters". As for 20th-century music, he believed that "Mahler was the last genius". Mahler, of course, died in 1911.

Consequently, Tennstedt's repertoire never grew much. Mahler, Bruckner, Strauss, Brahms and Wagner: they were his meat and drink. But what feasts he made of them. Those who longed to return to the days when conductors flaunted their pride and prejudice flocked to Tennstedt's concerts. Those who didn't (me included) came to scoff and stayed to cheer.

But then disaster struck. Tennstedt smoked. No, that's a small understatement. Ten cigarettes an hour was his going rate. In 1985 throat cancer was diagnosed. Six operations followed. Somehow he found the courage to make extraordinary comebacks. All the fear and despair he felt in those dark days

would be poured into Mahler. No wonder his tempos went wild. To say that he conducted each of those concerts as if believing it would be his last is the literal truth.

Ten years ago, on a bright August day, the last act of Tennstedt's tragedy began. It happened in Watford Town Hall, of all incongruous places. He was rehearsing the London Philharmonic for a Prom, when he collapsed.

There had been too many cancellations already that year. Tennstedt loved the LPO as he loved no other orchestra, and (in that professional musicians have favourable feelings for any conductor) the LPO loved him. But the music business is a business. The show must go on, and an orchestral show needs a conductor fit enough to hold a stick. Tennstedt, acutely aware of all this, resigned within the hour.

It wasn't quite the end of his

career. I remember a heaven-storming performance of Mahler's *Resurrection Symphony* in 1989, if only because I was unable to sleep for two days afterwards. But it was a doleful portent of a fading life.

What chiefly endeared Tennstedt to audiences and players alike, I believe, was his humility. He was never arrogant, as conductors customarily are. He never lorded it over orchestras. Significantly, he was the first German ever to be invited to conduct the Israel Philharmonic, and in 1988 that orchestra planted 36 trees in his honour — a Hebrew custom wishing the donor a long life.

Perhaps the trees have had some effect. But now it seems that, as in Mahler's Sixth Symphony, the hammerblows of fate have finally exhausted even this resilient spirit. I once asked Tennstedt about his hobby: hot-air ballooning, preferably 2,000ft above the Rockies. What was the big attraction of this dangerous pursuit? "Ah," he replied, "it is the only place to search for complete peace." I hope he finds that peace.

THEATRE: A tame new musical premiered at the Donmar; a cult novel artily staged at the Lyric, Hammersmith

Overdose of sugar impairs seduction

He is a matinee idol, she is the actress performing opposite him in a romantic play, and all is not well with their marriage. He thinks she is weary of him and may be about to take a lover. She seems to justify his fears when she declares that "we play the love scenes by numbers and have cold suppers afterwards".

So he devises a stratagem to check her fidelity. He fills her dressing room with bunches of red roses, and, camouflaged as the Guards officer who supposedly sent them, sets about seducing her.

Such is the plot which the Hungarian dramatist, Ferenc Molnár, concocted in 1910 and which two young North Americans have now transformed into a swiftable musical. It makes for a most pleasant, diverting evening, but not for anything much more. I cannot accuse the creative chefs at the Donmar of putting too much sugar into Molnár's bitter-sweet mix, but they could certainly have been more lavish with the angostura and aloe.

Perhaps Molnár exaggerated when he described the play as "perfectly agonising", but there is no doubting the tangled poignancy of the situa-



Enter the Guardsman

tion. Mistrust and jealousy torment the disguised Actor, as he is bluntly called, to the point where he wants to challenge himself to a duel.

And the denouement is, or should be, decidedly ambiguous. Maybe the Actress has seen through his plumed and braided persona from the start and has gone along with the pretence; maybe not. Maybe she is like the wife in Pinter's *Lower*, and hankers for a husband with a bit of danger and sex-athleticism in him.

But nobody at the Donmar quite rises to the emotional occasion. Janie Dee produces moments of yearning, even of mild erotic hunger, but it is hard to see her either as a woman with seven previous lovers' names scratched on her bedpost or as a performer whose Camille has been compared with Bernhardt's. She is too much the gamine, the demure English rose, too little the louché sophisticate or the domineering actress. As for Alexander Hanson's Actor, he is effective enough when it comes to blubbing or boasting

(try as he may, he cannot stop his fake Guardsman praising his Hamlet) but he could do more to acknowledge the tortuous weirdness of his predicament.

But what else should one expect of a musical, or at least a musical not by Stephen Sondheim? Well, Jeremy Sams, who directs, might have done more to evoke mid-European café society. A tiny phalanx of theatre people — wistful dresser, comically gay wig-maker, etc. — beavering and gossiping amid grey crates and other backstage debris is hardly atmospheric enough. Again, the composer and lyricist, Craig Bolmiller and Marion Adler, might have opted for a jaded period feel instead of the indiscriminately sprightly one they actually give us.

That sort of knowing unease is provided by Nicky Henson, playing a Molnár surrogate who encourages and observes his married friends' extramarital liaisons; but too seldom, too fitfully. This is an evening for those in search of gentle, civilised fun. Those with darker tastes should wait for some enterprising soul to revive the original play.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Alexander Hanson and Janie Dee smell the greasypaint in *Enter the Guardsman*

Surreal sadism is not for beginners

Why bother with the stuffed, the pickled and the painted at the Royal Academy when you can have a live Sensation in the comfort of your own stall seat, courtesy of Iain Banks's gamey cult novel, *The Wasp Factory*? Here a young boy, Frank, played by three actors in combat fatigues (Daniel Ilisley, Janine Wood and Harry Capehorn), runs wild on a Scottish island, catapulting rabbits, dismembering birds.

His is a world of sadistic fantasies. Dad interferes with Frank's food and keeps a cellar full of explosive cordite. Older brother Eric has escaped from a lunatic asylum and is bearing down on the island, torturing and torching dogs in his wake. Mum did a runner years ago.

In flashbacks we learn why the relatives aren't much nicer. By the time Frank is in his mid-teens he has murdered three of them. "It was just a stage I was going through," his older self comments dryly. Nevertheless he is a model of sanity beside the schizophrenia that afflicts his family.

The director Malcolm Sutherland has been unhealthily hung up on this brutal piece since he premiered it at the Glasgow Citz five years ago. The current incarnation is a stiller, more self-consciously theatrical piece. But Sutherland's stark production still strikes me as illustrated entirely for people who have read the novel. If you haven't a sense of the book, this will leave you floundering. It is like an arthouse Frankenstein movie directed by the monster.

Why do Frank's several adolescent selves make such a

The Wasp Factory
Lyric, Hammersmith

pretentious Gothic meal of his life? Cutting open and then dynamiting a large fake fluffy rabbit does little to capture the book's grainy reality or Frank's peculiar tragedy. The more the actors play up the symbolism, the more they look like cogs in a machine.

Panic takes the place of character development as Eric's increasingly frenzied phone calls signal his imminent arrival. Panic, too, in the stalls as we desperately try to find someone on whom one can pin an ounce of empathy.

The play reaches its graphic conclusion with a series of set pieces, extracted from the novel and blown up like black and white war photographs. It doesn't take an accountant to work out that it's not for their plot value. On the plus side, they are beautifully framed by Sutherland. Perhaps they should start issuing catalogues rather than programmes at the box office.

The only figure to keep it together is David Gant's long-haired Glaswegian father. Sounding uncannily like a cracked version of Billy Connolly, Gant's father leans against a pillar of cigarette smoke, dispensing the family horror stories with a comedian's sense of timing and a madman's cackle. Who said modern art doesn't have a sense of humour?

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

Writers go for gold in Athens

A full orchestra played, two enormous choruses sang. The Athens Concert Hall was packed with bigwigs, starting with the Greek Prime Minister and the Greek President, who proceeded to hand a prize of \$250,000 to one playwright, \$200,000 to a second, and a total of \$250,000 to five others.

No, this is not one of those daydreams that failed writers have while they starve in attics. It really happened earlier this week. While the city was still digesting the news that it will stage the Olympics proper in 2004, Athens was presenting a "cultural Olympiad", so-called, in which the competitors had been asked to pen plays focusing on the "problems facing Man on the threshold of the 21st century".

Since the sponsor was the Onassis Foundation, it was clear the winners would not end up with crystal goblets with pictures of Epidauros etched on them. They would certainly fare better than Sophocles and Euripides, for whom mere honour was enough 2,400 years ago. But one had expected the big bucks to go to Edward Shevardnadze, Steven Runciman and the other eminent figures the foundation was honouring at the same ceremony.

Yet no sooner had a representative of the International Maritime Organisation delivered a thank-you speech than up stepped Manjula Padmanabhan, followed by Anton Juan, Nagle Jackson and four others of whom I, for one, had not heard. Never can dramatists have received prizes remotely as lavish. Never has so much gone to dramatists so little-known.

A bloated fiasco, then, or a case of misdirected largesse? No; but I must admit some such fear passed through my mind before I read the winning play. None of the drama-

Benedict Nightingale reports on a 'cultural Olympiad' that offered vast prizes to unknown dramatists

tists and dramatists I asked in England — not even David Edgar, whose playwrighting course at Birmingham University fosters loads of new work — had heard of the cultural Olympiad. Moreover, there was (and remains) no guarantee that any of the successful plays would actually be performed. The Onassis people seemed in danger of paying \$700,000 for a lot of portentous millennial scribbles posing as drama.

Doubtless there were some such scribbles among the 1,460 plays from 76 nations that landed on the judges' tables. The three winners all wrote about a world perilously divided between haves and have-nots; but I cannot say I was impressed by Jackson's

Elevation of Thieves. The author, an American, heavily-handedly spoofs a fuddy-duddy European city whose leaders are less than delighted at the idea of a poor Muslim immigrant participating in their annual crucifixion ritual. The Hungerford-style massacre that ends the proceedings seemed inadequately motivated and reinforced my feeling that this was merely a piece of liberal breast-beating.

That is not an accusation, though, that can be directed at the other winners. *Tukol Tukol*, by the Filipino Anton, brings legends, ghosts and puppets into the dramatic equation, and will be tough to stage. But it merits a showing, not least because of the protagonist's burning rage at Japan's

exploitation of his country's women, both now and during the war. But Padmanabhan's *Harvest* is still harder-hitting, involving as it does a trade all too likely to increase as the West gets more spoilt and the Third World more desperate.

Padmanabhan, an Indian illustrator and writer little performed in her own country, postulates a Bombay where unemployment is almost universal and street gangs feed on dead derelicts. The only way for a respectable man to ensure that life in a cramped tenement becomes bearable is to make his organs available on demand to a svelte American who intermittently appears on a television module, purring out her appreciation in California-speak but getting hysterical when her putative donor so much as sneezes. Colds have been eradicated in her own Eden.

The play is set in 2010 and made me realise how seldom drama ventures into sci-fi. But most of the technology it evokes already seems feasible and the social trends it describes are perfectly probable. You certainly cannot dismiss Padmanabhan as paranoid, given the subtlety and dark humour she brings to what is, at root, essentially a warning tale about a modern travesty of Buddhist or Hindu reincarnation.

In spite of everything the Onassis Foundation has uncovered a dramatist worth international production. So pleased are its officers with their achievements that they hope soon to expand their cultural Olympiad into music, sculpture and the other arts — and to hold another contest for dramatists in 2001. With another half-million or so bucks on offer, I wouldn't be surprised if Molière and Sheridan, Marlowe and O'Neill, rose from their graves to compete.



Manjula Padmanabhan: won \$250,000 for *Harvest*, a play projecting a nightmare vision of India in 2010

If only Joe Orton could have written a play about his own violent death, what a fabulous, funny tale he would have woven. Orton tended to be chronological, but perhaps on this occasion he would have started with the driver arriving at his home to take him to a film studio, only to find the playwright murdered and his lover also dead.

That was 30 years ago last month, an anniversary that is sufficient excuse for Radio 3 to be putting out new productions of two of his works: *Loot* last Sunday and *Up Against It* this coming Sunday (7.30pm). Neither has been done on the radio before. *Loot* is of course a stage play, whereas *Up Against It* was written as a film script for the Beatles.

Orton was such a figure of the 1960s and its ultra-Modernism that one almost forgets that he wrote farces, though they might now be called black comedies. *Loot* was certainly black and just as certainly comedic, indeed one was thankful for this reminder of how funny Orton could be.

Ortons by the pair

RADIO

Loot concerns the death of a woman and the thieving activities of her son and how the proceeds of a robbery by the latter come to be in the coffin of the former. Is that all? Heavens no. There is also a crooked copper posing as a man from the water board, a sub-Kafka figure who is frightening and foolish by turns.

Nor is that all, either. The dead woman's nurse, a woman with an eye on the widower's cash, turns out to be an habitual murderer whose impressive previous record includes six (or is it seven?) husbands, all mysteriously ren-

dered in the past tense (as an Orton character might have put it).

All of which, clever plot-making though it is, amounts only to a series of bows from which Orton fires arrows at favoured subjects: women, religion, authority, manners, hypocrisy, duplicity. He uses all the available voices to do so, with the result that by the end of *Loot* you hardly know whom to like least.

But did this work on the radio? After all, there is much visual fun in the shunting around of the body, especially the attempts late in the play to pass it off as a tailor's dummy. Hard to convey through the ether, but director Lindsay Posner pulled it off in splendid style, and the acting was first rate. *Loot* and *Up Against It* are the sort of 90-minute dramas that will soon be too long, apparently, for Radio 4, a network now proposing to sell drama as if it was curtain material. Still, Radio 3 will have no complaints.

PETER BARNARD

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Season of Sundays worth the wait

Why did Harriet Wheeler and David Gavurin take five years to come up with their new album? 'Dunno,' they chorus

The Sundays take five years to record an album, and they have absolutely no excuse as to why this should be. One of those Couples in Rock — like Abba, the Mamas and the Papas or various conjunctions of Fleetwood Mac — David Gavurin and Harriet Wheeler launch into their fifth pint of the evening and run through all the possibilities.

"Decorating? Nah, it can't be that. Our house is a mess," Wheeler muses. "We painted the bathroom red in 1994, but that only took an afternoon."

"We built our studio," Gavurin offers. "That took a while. What was our chosen method of soundproofing? Oh, it's not egg boxes. I dunno who started the myth that egg boxes soundproof places. Maybe it's because acoustic tiles look like egg boxes, and some gullible literalist made a fragile connection. No, we use mattresses for our soundproofing, which makes it tricky when guests come to stay. Then we can't record."

"That's why it took so long," Wheeler leaps on the excuse. "We also had a baby," she adds. "That took nine months or so."

So where is said rock'n'roll child tonight? "Oh, home alone," Gavurin says, straight-faced. "They've got to learn sometime. Apparently, 50 per cent of 999 calls are made by children, so the chances are she'll know what to do if things go wrong. She knows where the grill pan is. She knows where the fish fingers are."

"She was so sweet when she was tiny!" Wheeler goes into motherly mode. "You could hold her in the palm of your hand, but she usually fell off. Now she's obsessed with Liverpool FC. We have to play this game where she's Robbie Fowler. Sometimes she's Steve McManaman, but it's usually Robbie."

The emergency services are going to be very perplexed when Robbie Fowler rings up, dispiriting his wife as a two-year-old child, and tells them the house is on fire," Gavurin sighs. "Maybe we should have shelled out extra for a babysitter tonight."

There are five things that people know about the Sundays. Two of

these facts have already been mentioned: their couplehood and their album procrastination. The third has become clear — they can carry a jolly jape concerning their responsibility as parents. The fourth is that Wheeler's hair has remained exactly the same since 1988 — when they first burst ("Apologetically shuffled," Gavurin corrects) on to the scene with *Can't Be Sure*, which topped John Peel's Festive 50 Christmas chart, and sounded the "Hallelujah" for their debut album, *Reading, Writing and Arithmetic*. It's a cottage-loaf kind of tonorial affair, a bouffant, large of follicular croissant. Joe, a member of the under-rated bliss merchants Butterfly Child, once lived opposite their house, and ran a betting version of I Spy, wherein guests could take up binoculars and attempt to spot Wheeler with her hair down. The game finished six months later, with Wheeler's hair still firmly stapled atop her head.

"That was another reason why the album took so long," Gavurin sighs. "Harriet just couldn't decide whether to go up or down with the hair. We were going for a radical change, but she bottled it at the last minute."

This leads us on to the fifth and final Sundays fact: that they always sound the same. Half of this could be down to Wheeler's voice: a delicious elastic carolling sound, not unlike a tipsy lark spiralling nestward after a very good evening. The other half of this could be down to Gavurin's guitar-playing: sunrise acoustics setting up ditty mantras before expanding into burnished chrome arcs for the chorus.

These two things together, however, sound impossibly out of time and idyllic, like Laurie Lee's village folk trying to guess what music might sound like in a rural Utopian 2002.

The only thing that changes are the seasons the Sundays evoke: the debut *Reading, Writing and Arithmetic*, with its fidgety time signatures and honeyed insouciant joy, was a pollen-drunk summer; *Cider With Rosie* in the hay. The follow-up, 1992's *Blind*, was autumn-born: Monet-purple skies



Harriet Wheeler, the woman with the fresh-baked hair, and David Gavurin — the Sundays to their friends — reflect on *Static and Silence*

filled with spinning gold and red leaves. The guitars often became painfully bright, like the frost-glare on frozen roads. There is the feeling that, although things are becoming thrillingly epic and bracing, everything will be swept away. And so it is only logical that

Static and Silence, the Sundays' new album, is winter: stripped and hushed, yet still full of heart-like warmth and beauty. The acoustics have changed, as they do in winter: sometimes small and delicate, like gardens full of snow; at others, endless and glittering, like frozen

lakes. It often echoes the intimacy of a heart slowly breaking.

"Ah well, my father got ill and died within a year," Wheeler explains. "It was the oddest thing."

For the first time in the three hours we have spent together, the Sundays seem to be struggling for

words. "It was like: 'Oh! You're not there any more!'" Wheeler still looks startled recalling it. "You know? I couldn't find him anywhere. That's probably why this album is winter-sad and simple."

Static and Silence is released on Monday by Parlophone

Smooth fusion at the factory

FORT DUNLOP, a derelict factory on the outskirts of Birmingham best viewed from the M6, is perhaps an unusual source of musical inspiration, especially given songwriters' customary unwillingness to celebrate English place names in their art. But as Birmingham-born saxophonist Theo Travis demonstrated, in the right hands it is capable of playing the muse whatever its appearance.

Taking the sounds of a working factory as his starting point, he has constructed a vigorous, hard-swinging jazz vehicle from a relatively simple, driving theme.

The result — initially commissioned as part of the *Broad Street Changes* suite by West Midlands Arts — provided him with the perfect opener for his week-long residency at Ronnie Scott's, where he is playing opposite singer Irene Reid.

Sparked initially by drum-

LIVE JAZZ

Theo Travis

Ronnie Scott's

mer Marc Parnell's brisk snare-drum tattoo, the tune began as a strident tenor anthem, but swiftly evolved into a beguiling, intensely melodic lope, providing the platform for some muscular but rhapsodic improvising from Travis over Dave Gordon's sparkling piano and Rob Statham's tight, singing electric bass.

The fact that Travis employs this latter instrument rather than the upright acoustic version has led to his being described as a "fusion saxophonist".

His slow-building eloquence on the quartet's second selection, Chick Corea's *Sea Journey*, which climaxed in an eloquent display of wildly verbose passion, did indeed betray the influence of fusion tenor maestro Michael Brecker.

Travis's roots, however, are just as firmly set in acoustic, subtly swinging jazz, and he proved it first with a touchingly reverent soprano/piano duo version of the standard *My Foolish Heart*, then with an almost Stan Getz-smooth version of his own gently wafting *Lullworth Night*, the opening track of his latest album, *Secret Island*.

The same album provided the quartet's blustering set closer, *The Crow Road*, inspired by the Iain Banks novel.

But the highlight of their performance was provided by the bustling, smartly percussive *Friday Night at the Cadillac Club*, which showcased Parnell's briskly assertive but supple drumming, a vital ingredient of the band's robust yet tasteful overall sound.

For the past two years running, Theo Travis has been nominated in the British Jazz Awards' Rising Star category; to judge by this performance, his ascension is all but complete.

CHRIS PARKER

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Sorry, dancing's off, love

Lisa Verrico

joins the

fruitless hunt

for a good bop

on the 1997

Camden Crawl

as studiously cool as the band's Liam Gallagher-like singer. When in Camden, the Lo-Fi usually play the Monarch pub, where their deafening punk-enthusiast big beats go down a storm. Perhaps they should have exchanged Crawl venues with American singer Tanya Donnelly, whose show to promote her recently released debut solo album,

Lovesongs for Underdogs, took place in the Monarch's tiny upstairs room.

Donnelly sold more than two million albums with her previous band, Belly. Inevitably, scores of fans of that band eager to hear the singer's fuzzy, upbeat guitar pop stood in a queue outside for most of the set.

Camden Crawl wound up at the Electric Ballroom, where *Echo and the Bunnymen* turned out to be the evening's secret special guest. Their competent set consisted mainly of 1980s hits such as *The Cutter* and *The Killing Moon*. As the bulk of the evening's acts prepared to travel to Manchester and Glasgow for secondary stages of the event, the words "Don't walk before you can crawl" were on everyone's lips.

There can be no better indication of dance music's move from the underground into the alternative territory once occupied by Britpop bands than the line-up at the Camden Crawl on Wednesday. The annual event, which took place in six separate venues and stretched from 6pm until after midnight, started three years ago as a showcase for new talent with a bill dominated by indie guitar acts. This year, however, more than half of the gigs were by electronic outfits. At least, that was the plan.

If organisers were aware of the renowned unreliability of dance bands, they made no contingency plans. Before the Crawl even began, big beat favourites Dub Pistols pulled out of their end-of-evening slot at the Underworld club.

Up Camden High Street, the Dingwalls venue fared even worse. Of the four acts scheduled to appear, only the pair with guitar players (Warm Jets and Snow Patrol) bothered to turn up. Headliners Headrillaz at least had the courtesy to cancel in advance. The techno-driven Hardknox simply didn't show.

In an ill-advised attempt to step up the scale of the Camden Crawl, this year the 2,000-capacity Forum was added to the agenda of venues. With ticket sales significantly down on 1996's event (only 2,500 or so people were thought to have bought the £15 wristbands required to get into all six venues throughout the evening), the cavernous Forum looked ominously empty, even for the Swedish headline band The Wannadies.

It did not help that the Forum is more than a mile away from the centre of Camden. In the past, the bustle of people rushing between shows added intimacy and a sense of excitement. This time, waiting for the free bus that shuttled at no fixed time from venue to venue was more of a chore.

Nevertheless, the Camden Crawl did have its highlights. Lo-Fidelity Allstars — a cross between the Chemical Brothers and Shaun Ryder's old band Happy Mondays — ignored a pitiful turnout for their Forum show to fire rhythmic missiles, like their latest single, *Disco Machine Gun*, over the heads of indie boys trying desperately to look

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Depression moving in from Iceland

POP ALBUMS: Winter has Björk's heart in its grip, and harder men than David Sinclair would be saddened

BJÖRK

Homogenic
(One Little Indian TPLP71)
£13.99

SHE comes from the land of the ice and snow, a place where there is space and great beauty but also emptiness and, at times, a chilling sense of desolation. And, while you can take Björk out of Iceland, it seems you cannot take Iceland out of Björk's music.

Her new album, *Homogenic*, is a fusion of futuristic electronic rhythm tracks and neo-chamber string arrangements, provided by the Icelandic String Octet. There are moments of high drama. "Excuse me, but I just have to explode," she announces in *Pluto*, her ultra-compressed voice caving over layers of radiostatic sound effects and a frantic techno beat.

But whereas in the past Björk's tendency towards introspection, both musically and in her lyrics, was leavened by the sheer exuberance of her performance, here she seems to have suppressed her pop instincts, allowing a sense of coldness and isolation to exert an unusually vice-like grip on the heart of songs such as the ethereal *Unravel* and the stark *All Neon Like*.

"I thought I could organise freedom/How Scandinavian of me," she sings in *Hunter*, the strings swelling away dolorously all around while a

fractured marching-drum beat rattles away in double-time at the back.

As frosty as Stina Nordenstam and as earnest as Elvis Costello during his Brodsky Quarter phase, *Homogenic* is an album that will ultimately prove easier to admire than to love.

POOKA

Spinning
(Trade/Island 524 426) £15.49

THE duo of Sharon Lewis and Natasha Jones, otherwise known as Pooka, announced its presence in 1993 with a debut album ostensibly of coffee-house folk, but given a demonic twist in the harmonies and lyrics. For *Spinning*, their belated follow-up, the pair have reinvented themselves as a post-Alanis Morissette acoustic-rock act while retaining a shrill, otherworldly edge that sets them apart from more frivolous contemporaries such as Alisha's Attic.

Although they come from the North of England, the searing melodrama of their music and the highly strung emotional pitch of their lyrics are far more in tune with the American soul-baring style of artists such as Ani DiFranco, or even, on occasion, the late Jeff Buckley.

Favouring the sort of faintly discordant harmonic intervals that suggest a witches' coven, their eerie voices ululate to startling effect above the fidgety riffing of *Mean Girl* and swiftly galloping beat of *Sweet Butterfly*. "If I don't get a boyfriend soon/I'm bound to get a disease," they insist on

Rubber Arms, one of several songs where all manner of not-so-secret neuroses are flushed out. Not pleasant, but perhaps necessary.

DUBSTAR

Goodbye
(Food/EMI 7243 8 21217)
£13.49

ALTHOUGH their debut album, *Disgraceful*, made little impression when it was released in 1995, indie-pop darlings Dubstar have since enjoyed Top 20 hits with *Not So Manic Now* and *Stars*, and now stand poised on the brink of mainstream success.

Located in an English tradition that stretches from Kirsty MacColl and Saint Etienne all the way back to the Human League, *Goodbye* is crammed full of bright, tart little pop statements that often conceal a bitter emotional core within a heavy coating of sugar.

The album is dominated by the presence of singer Sarah Blackwood, whose frilly delivery on songs such as *My Start In Wallsend* and *It's Clear* produces an effect that is rather like being suffocated by fluffy toy bunnies, an impression clearly at odds with the



"Whereas in the past Björk's introspection was leavened by the exuberance of her performance, here she seems to have suppressed her pop instincts"

fearless attitude of lyrics such as: "I am the gum on your shoes/The prostitute who rings your family" (from *I Will Be Your Girlfriend*).

The conflict finds its resolution in the melancholy reggae

tune *It's Over* and the sad, slow *Ghost* ("I'll trace the whole world to find you ghost"), where the posing seems to give way to something more genuine.

TRAVIS

Good Feeling
(Independiente ISM 488522)
£11.99

CURRENTLY on tour with Oasis, Travis are the Glaswegian rock group whose trick is never knowingly to sound as if they are trying too hard. Perhaps they aren't. The chorus and chord sequence of *Happy* — "I'm so happy 'cause you're so happy" repeated ad nauseum — is simple to the

point of cretinism, while the high incidence of songs with a slow or languid tempo makes you wonder why they bother to turn their guitars up so loud in the first place.

But they do have a knack for creating infectious, anthemic singalongs, as on the Bluesy chorus of *Tied to the 90s* and the jaunty hook of their single *U2 Girls*. And, unusually for this kind of group, they have a great line in meaningful love songs as demonstrated by *Falling Down*, *More than Us* and the disarmingly straightforward sentiment of *I Love You Anyway*. Another Del Amitri in the making, perhaps?

A touch of tuba roots the blues

HOWARD JOHNSON & GRAVITY

Right Now!
(Verve 537 801-2)

ALTHOUGH the ingredients of this album — six tubas, a rhythm section and the veteran blues singer Taj Mahal — are almost wilfully eccentric, the music it contains is spontaneous and sparkily accessible.

Some of the participants made the still-popular live Taj Mahal recording *The Real Thing* in 1971, but this is more than a "reunion" album. Made directly after a European tour, it catches a red-hot band bursting with ideas and enthusiasm.

The material ranges from a passionate but slinky version of Little Willie John's classic *Fever*, through funky 1960s and 1970s showpieces, to imaginatively elegant arrangements of jazz fare such as Gil Evans's *Waltz and Slide* and Hampton's *Frame for the Blues*.

But whatever they are playing, the rich, fruity sonorities of the tubas (plus occasional penny whistle or plaintive saxophone) and the plaintive graininess of Taj Mahal's lived-in voice, all held together by a whip-smart rhythm section, make for a

JAZZ ALBUMS

highly unusual but consistently enjoyable album.

JOHN LAW

The Hours
(FMR CD41-V0697)

THE third and final album in a series of piano meditations sparked off by John Law's interest in early monastic music. *The Hours* takes material from the *Liber Usualis* as its starting point.

After briefly stating each of the eight plainchant "themes", Law subjects them to sometimes surprisingly robust but consistently graceful and mellifluous treatments, imbued with the disciplined vigour that is the most obvious legacy of his immersion over the past few years in free jazz.

Added to his recent acclaimed trio of albums of Thelonious Monk interpretations and idiosyncratic visits to standards, Law's three solo-piano plainchant albums confirm his growing reputation as one of this country's most imaginative young pianists.

CHRIS PARKER

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- | | | | |
|----|------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | (1) | Be Here Now | Oasis (Creation) |
| 2 | (2) | Butterfly | Mariah Carey (Columbia) |
| 3 | (3) | Marchin' Already | Ocean Colour Scene (MCA) |
| 4 | (4) | OK Computer | Radiohead (Parlophone) |
| 5 | (5) | White on Blonde | Texas (Mercury) |
| 6 | (6) | The Fat of the Land | Prodigy (XL Recordings) |
| 7 | (7) | Calling all Stations | Genesis (Virgin) |
| 8 | (8) | Much Love | Shade Area (WEA) |
| 9 | (9) | New Forms | Roni Size/Reprazent (Talkin' Loud) |
| 10 | (10) | Older | George Michael (Virgin) |

Copyright CMC

Figure in brackets denotes last week's position

If it's worth hearing once

Where would today's pop stars be without their predecessors?

Patrick Gilbert reports on sampling



Girl Power didn't help Emma and the other Spice Girls when their producers sampled an obscure soul track

Earlier this summer, the Spice Girls were faced with a serious accusation. It had nothing to do with the poaching of boyfriends, or with some imaginary shoplifting spree in Sainsbury's. Instead, it related to the unauthorised use of another artist's work — in this case a sample from an obscure 1970s funk record called *It's Just Begun* by the Jimmy Castor Bunch.

"In fairness, the girls didn't know anything about it," explains John Fogarty of Minder Music, the owner of the infringed copyright who stands to make a substantial sum in back royalties from the Spice Girls' multimillion-selling debut album. "Once we had approached them there was no argument. Stannard and Rowe [the group's producers] said they had sampled it from another record, and agreed to pay us."

In many respects, Minder Music was lucky to reach such a quick and amicable settlement. Every year scores of

instances of copyright infringement go undetected, losing songwriters and musicians thousands of pounds in royalties. It is a practice which is growing rapidly.

The main problem is the ubiquity of sampling, the term for "lifting" a snatch of music from an existing recording and digitally incorporating it into a new track. Muscled into vogue by the advent of hip hop and rap in the late 1980s, sampling is now an integral part of mainstream pop culture, and its innovative use by indie artists such as Beck — whose backing tracks are basically sophisticated sound collages of old records — has garnered almost universal critical acclaim.

Since 1990, when Gilbert O'Sullivan sued an American rapper called Biz Markie over

rock artists being just as likely to feature samples as dance acts. This is good news for copyright owners, since they ultimately have the right to veto the use of the material they administer.

For example, the Verve's haunting summer smash, *Bitter Sweet Symphony*, was built around a repeated snatch for loop of an obscure 1960s orchestral treatment of the Rolling Stones' song, *The Last Time*. Such was the tenacity of the Stones' publishers that the Verve have had to hand over all of the publishing royalties earned from the track, this despite the argument that the record was partly "made" by singer Richard Ashcroft's totally original lyric.

Likewise, Sting stands to gain a reported £400,000 from Puff Daddy's chart-topper *I'll Be Missing You*, a remake of the Bee Gees' early 1980s hit *Every Breath You Take*, containing samples from the original song.

Yet as the MCPS readily admits, many samples are still not declared. In fact, copyright infringement remains positively rife, chiefly, it seems, because pop stars do not regard it as a serious issue.

As one of the world's top musicologists, Peter Oxendale has been called upon as an expert witness in many celebrated sampling cases. These days his phone rarely stops ringing. "I'm involved in 70 or 80 instructions a year, and I expect that number to increase substantially," he says.

"Most of the cases are settled outside court, as it gets too expensive otherwise. With sampling, I have all the necessary equipment to prove two things come from the same sound source. Some people may chop up or manipulate a sound to try to disguise it, but I generally find it."

Oxendale says many of the finer aspects of the sampling issue have yet to be tested in the courts. Nevertheless, he warns, "if you sample just as much as a fragment of someone else's work, you have to declare it. Otherwise, it may cost you."

In the Spice Girls case, it reportedly cost them around 16 per cent of the publishing

royalties for the track *If U Can't Dance*.

Meanwhile, sampling — illegal and otherwise — continues to thrive. "A sampler is as much a musical instrument as a guitar," argues Dean Rudland, a former office manager at Acid Jazz, a label which once had to settle out of court with Minder Music over one of its artists' samples of a Fat Back Band track. "It's messing around with sounds. There are only 12 notes, but there's an infinite number of sounds. Used creatively by gifted producers, it's an amazing tool."

Sampling is now an integral part of the pop culture?

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EDUCATION

John O'Leary on discontent over Whitehall control of schools; and Mark Whitaker on a radical Chicago experiment

Teachers protest at ministry regulation

Teachers' representatives were under no illusions about the new administration's tough line on standards when Labour took office. David Blunkett, Education and Employment Secretary, had abandoned his party's "no blame" culture in opposition and was promising a string of initiatives.

Armed with an overwhelming electoral mandate and promising support as well as pressure, ministers enjoyed a lengthy honeymoon period with the teaching unions. This week, however, there have been signs of strain in the relationship.

The cause is what many teachers see as an unhealthy centralisation of power in the hands of ministers. They are faced with guidelines on everything from homework to the amount of time to be spent teaching reading. Some teachers are wondering what is left for them to decide.

The last straw was the suggestion by Mr Blunkett that the hotline set up to take comments on the schools White Paper could be kept open for parents to complain. David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, complained of a "big brother" approach to schools.

Dissatisfaction had set in well before that, however. The prep schools' annual conference was the unlikely source of the first and most intemperate criticism, as Bob Acheson, Headmaster of Clifton College Preparatory School, Bristol, gave warning of "intellectual fascism" if the Government continued to be so prescriptive.

This week, the Secondary Heads Association (SHA) delivered a more measured critique, accusing ministers of stifling the creativity needed from teachers if standards were to rise. Bruce Douglas, the SHA's new president, said the Government would go "blundering on", failing to improve the education system, unless schools were given more responsibility.

Mr Douglas, head master of Branston Community College, in Lincoln, says: "We are not looking for conflict with the Government, as long as they stand by some of their own rhetoric. If they do not, they risk a smaller, meaner system with lesser leaders and a poorer education for the young people of this country."

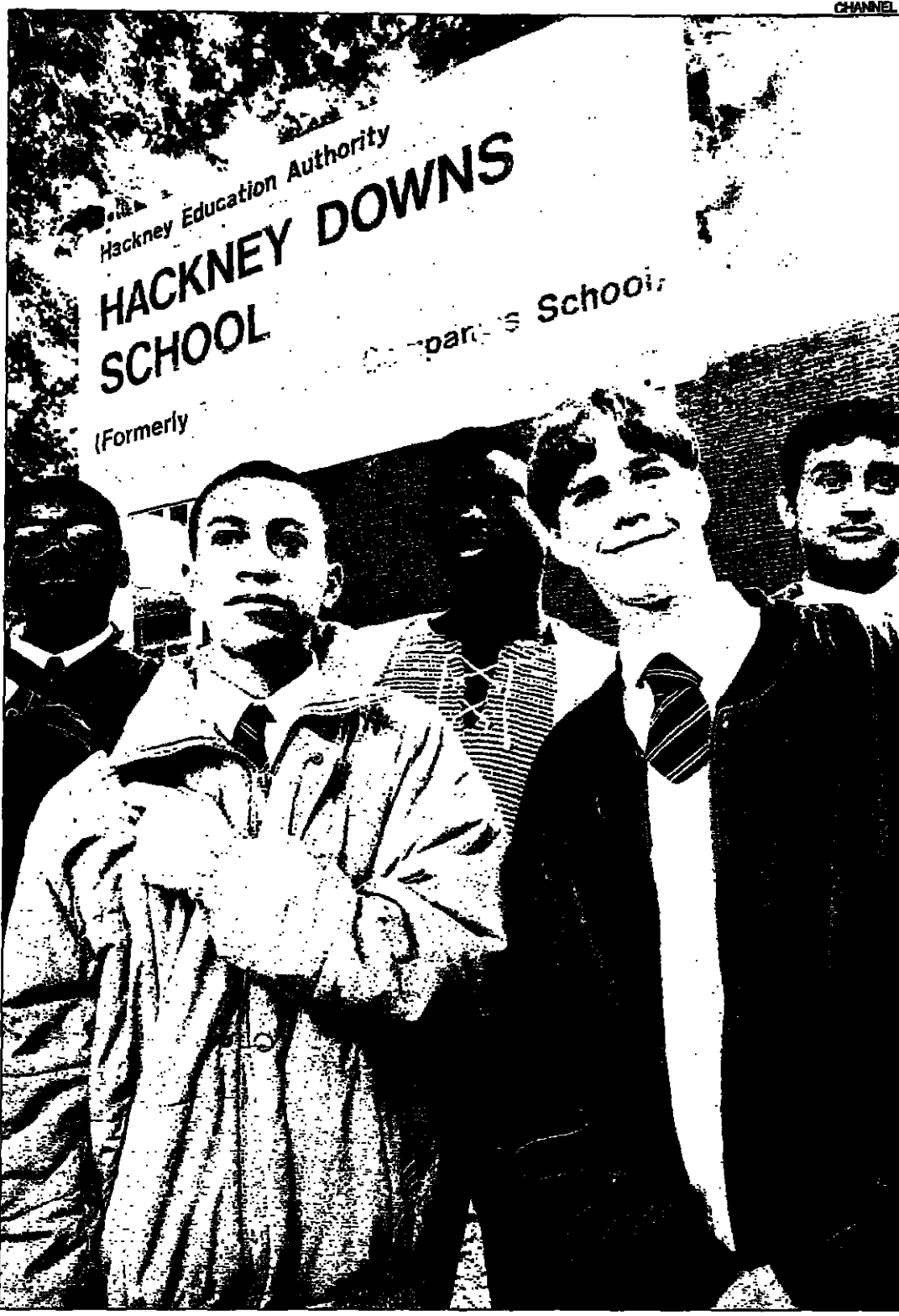
Mr Douglas, speaking at a London press conference to mark the start of his year in office, said the failure of a minority of schools was determining ministers' approach to the whole system. He appealed to politicians to drop the "falsehoods" that education is a disaster area and that the only route to improvement was for them to take more of the decisions.

He said the current approach would have a damaging effect on teacher recruitment. "I think the real reason that teacher supply is at risk is that we have moved away from the idea that teaching is a big 'can do' job, where professionals can exercise their judgment."

The SHA is not alone in its concerns. Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, reminded ministers after one recent initiative that some of the methods they now seek to outlaw were required practice not long ago in the local authorities they controlled. "Politicians had no monopoly on wisdom then and they do not now," he said.

Ministers would deny that they are falling to live up to their promises of partnership with the teaching profession. Mr Blunkett spoke warmly this week at a conference run jointly by the National Union of Teachers and *The Times Educational Supplement*, and union representatives have been included in the extensive talks on the Government's forthcoming legislation.

Yet on big occasions, such as the Prime Minister's education summit and when members are cho-



Intervention by a "task force" failed to prevent the closure of Hackney Downs school last year

sen for groups such as the standards task force, hand-picked exponents of the Government's initiatives take the place of teachers' representatives.

So are organisations such as the SHA simply piqued at being cut out of the action? And is the Government right to look elsewhere for advice? This was not the first time that the SHA has crossed swords with Labour after its presidential introduction. Last year the association's claims that the party's plans would allow LEAs to wield power over schools once more prompted angry denials.

Some of the association's criticisms this week took little account of political reality — for example on

the funding of education, which SHA's leaders find inadequate. But the charge of overprescription will strike a chord in classrooms.

As well as being contrary to management theory on getting the best out of a workforce, most of the Government's direction relies on the co-operation of the teaching profession.

Parents may like the idea of a strong Government and feel that schools need some firm direction. But Mr Blunkett has acknowledged previously that he must win the backing of ordinary teachers to meet the ambitious targets he is setting. This will be doubly true as

the supply of teachers is underpinned by a no-excuses-for-failure philosophy of accountability. If children fail, they must pay the penalty: the same applies to the teachers. And failure is judged by one solitary standard — how pupils do in what are called the

Interpretation such as yesterday's decision to send an improvement team into Hackney will command the support of many teachers, as long as they believe that the drive for improvement leaves a professional role for them.

Some will see the much-vaunted consultation on the schools White Paper as a key test of the Government's commitment to partnership. The regional conferences, which ended yesterday, disclosed alternatives to the current proposals. If the legislation to be framed later this year does not reflect at least some of them, more teachers are likely to share the SHA's disillusionment.

Schools reform blows through the Windy City

There are tears in her eyes as 14-year-old Antoinette talks about having to spend another year in elementary school rather than moving on with her friends to high school. She is one of more than 11,000 Chicago children who are being made to repeat a whole year of school work. The reason? They didn't do well enough in a one-off test of basic comprehension and maths skills. Children, so the argument goes in Chicago these days, must be made accountable for how they perform.

If there is anxiety in Britain's schools as to what the Government's "zero tolerance" approach to raising standards might mean, then what has happened to schools in Chicago over the past two years will do nothing to dispel it. Especially as Tim Brighouse, vice-chairman of the Department for Education's new Standards Task Force, is taking a close interest in Chicago school reform.

By the end of the Eighties the city had what was widely regarded as America's worst urban school system. Only a third of pupils reached the national average in reading, and 43 per cent of those who started high school dropped out. When they did, the drug gangs were ready for them. Richard Daley, Chicago's Mayor, has staked his reputation on improving performance in the city's 550 public schools.

Since 1995 the pace of reform has been startling: \$800 million has been raised for structural improvements; support services have been privatised; special schools have been opened for disruptive pupils; truancy and teenage pregnancy have been targeted.

The whole strategy is underpinned by a no-excuses-for-failure philosophy of accountability. If children fail, they must pay the penalty: the same applies to the teachers. And failure is judged by one solitary standard — how pupils do in what are called the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills. These are marked by computer and the day that children take them has become the single most important day in the school year.

For pupils, failure in the test means a compulsory six-week summer school; that is how 47,000 children spent their vacation this year. They were tested again at the end of the programme, and those that still failed — like Antoinette — were held back for a year. Schools where too few pupils

reach national average scores in the tests suffer Chicago's equivalent of "naming and shaming". They are placed "on probation" and have to accept advice from city-appointed private-sector consultants as to how to improve their performance. Those that still fail to improve sufficiently quickly face the ultimate sanction of "reconstitution" — which happened to seven Chicago high schools this summer.

In July every member of staff in these schools — from the head to the caretaker — was sacked. They were told they could reapply for their jobs, but of those that did 40 per cent were told not to bother reporting back in September. Careers, some of 30 years or more, were put on the line at a 30-minute interview before a panel appointed by the school board. And head teachers admit that they weren't just looking for bad teachers: they

were also looking for those unsympathetic to the reform strategy.

Critics of the Chicago reforms say that it has been difficult to speak out against it, but many increasingly fear that the strategy is a runaway horse. Academic experts on school improvement are claiming that education is being reduced to preparation for the tests of basic skills: parents and local school councils — Chicago's version of boards of governors — are complaining that they're being frozen out of any dialogue.

As yet, Chicago's 27,000 teachers have been compliant — but that looks set to change. At the beginning of next academic year they will be presented with a curriculum — from kindergarten to the end of high school — that has been entirely scripted for them by the school board, down to detailed lesson plans for each day of the year. It is an extension of what already happens in summer schools, where monitors are employed to check that teachers are on the right page for the day. It will be, as the chief executive of the Chicago school system is proud to call it, "teacher-proof instruction". But it is something his critics say will force Chicago education into a straitjacket.

If close advisers to the Government are watching Chicago, then so should everyone involved with Britain's schools. Because, as yet, it is the most developed model of where zero tolerance might lead.

Mark Whitaker reports on Chicago school reform for *File on 4*, on Radio 4, at 7.30pm next Tuesday

Everyone, from the head to the caretaker, is sacked

THE TIMES DILLONS BOOKER FORUM

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YOU ARE INVITED to an evening of readings and discussion with five of the shortlisted authors for this year's Booker Prize. This Times/Dillons forum will be held on Monday, October 13. Chaired by Peter Stothard, the Editor of *The Times*, the forum is an opportunity to participate in the award. The six nominations are:

Quarantine, by Jim Crace (Viking, £16.99).
The Underground Man, by Mick Jackson (Picador, £15.99).
Grace Notes, by Bernard MacLaverty (Jonathan Cape, £14.99).
Europa, by Tim Parks (Secker & Warburg, £9.99).
The Essence of the Thing, by Madeleine St John (Fourth Estate, £9.99).
The God of Small Things, by Arundhati Roy (Flamingo, £15.99).

The forum will be held at Church House, Dean's Yard, Westminster, London SW1P 3NZ, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets at £10 (concessions £7.50) include an audio cassette featuring extracts from each of the books and information about the authors. Subject to demand, the event will be interpreted by sign language.

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Whatever happened to English grammar?

Language empowers; lack of it disempowers. Do we, or do we not, want schoolchildren to be empowered? The question suggested itself again this week, as the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority confirmed that its proposed grammar tests would not be compulsory for another year.

What most pupils are being taught in the name of English is depressingly disempowering. Story report or diary writing and a whole host of other "creative" activities are usually accompanied by woolly and superficial "English literature", often working on banal books of dubious worth. The latter is usually focused firmly on content and ignores the fact that all writing consists of language.

And that's English teaching. Scant attention is paid to the nuts and bolts of how English fits together. It's like asking people to build a house without showing them how to lay bricks. Of course, the house will be hopeless and so is the written English of most school-leavers.

A despairing magazine editor told me recently of a work experience student assigned to him. "She has an English degree and is doing a course in journalism but she can't construct a sentence, let alone write a letter. She's actually unemployable," he said.

Are we to believe that the rules of basic grammar were too difficult for that young woman, now in her fourth year of higher education, to grasp? Unlikely. The awful truth is almost certainly that no one in her 17 years of full-time education has ever bothered to teach her the



Many students lack the basic equipment to build a proper sentence, says Susan Elkin

elementary rules of grammar or explained to her why they are important.

Grammar and punctuation are mutually supportive. Surely a pupil of, say, 11 or so can grasp that in the sentence "My sister, who is learning to drive, would like a car of her own" the dependent clause, "who is learning to drive", must be marked off from the main clause with a pair of commas. Or that you can move the parts of the sentence around to create variety and nuance.

Help is at hand, however. Shirley Russell is the author of the excellent book *Grammar, Structure and Style* (OUP, £12.99). Although it

purports to be a textbook for 16 to 18-year-olds studying for one of the newish A-level English language courses, Ms Russell says: "I wrote it also as a self-help manual for teachers. Few of those under 40 know anything about grammar and I hoped this book might help to break into the vicious circle, because teachers can't teach what they don't know. Yet children lose out so much if they don't understand the basic core of grammar. They can't write essays or express themselves properly."

Nonetheless, Ms Russell dismisses the complex detail of old-fashioned clause analysis. "Whoever heard of a writer saying 'I think I'll have a noun clause here'?" she asks. That is why she includes in her book the rather alarming disclaimer: "You are not asked to learn the grammar discussed in this section but simply to be aware that it once existed."

She is, however, a passionate advocate of teaching sentence structure, parts of speech and the supporting punctuation to all pupils, using the correct vocabulary. Tellingly though, she cannot find a publisher willing to commission her to write a short commonsense grammar book for use at Key Stage 3 or GCSE.

Accurately expressed and punctuated use of English adds to the clarity of communication. Are English teachers too insecure — or too conditioned to the hedonistic belief that all lessons have to be "entertaining" rather than rigorous — to be single-mindedly intent on empowering their pupils by improving their mastery of language? If so, then they might as well pack up and go home.

Chris Barton steels himself for the start of a new term

"BACK TO work then?" asks neighbour, weeks after modest holiday and the university term just started.

Head down at tray, Long list of new personal tutors. Longer list of personal tutors' duties: no sex with, fine; no hour without, not fine; explain modular system to, oh Lord.

Push past noticeboards. Reach room, unlock, lock, lean on back of door. Read last of overnight post, remember when autumn return produced nothing but three months' pay slips; this September's invigilation and marking duties alone exceeded those of many a previous golden June.

More requests for references from graduates. The less well they do after leaving, the longer they use your name. Woolworths sales assistantship for a class member of '93? Well... HMSO envelope, better. It is a badly kept secret that I act as unofficial talent spotter for the security services. Two of my placements waved gratefully from their Securicor van the other day.

Evening-class list. Well done, lots of names from last

When September comes



week's final sales gig. Remember when those big buildings in the middle of your town were dedicated to keeping you out? We could have dressed up like so many Mr Quelches (with or without canes) for those first open days for would-be part-time students. Now they expect a time-share presentation.

Throw dart at Open University advertisement pasted on

far wall: "Now you can study law while working or looking after your family." Pah! Our first class of night school graduates are now pretty much at the tops of their trees. Employers are beginning to get the point about doing it the hard way: they're mighty quick on the uptake out there in the good old real world. Odd, considering that the rest of the world laughed at our industry and commerce while fighting to get into our higher education system.

It's tempting to adapt the one about borrowers and libraries and say that without the students, the place would be great. And for about a week in June it is. But there is nothing, absolutely nothing, like the first sight of a new group. One moment a void, then faces, then voices, then characters, some to be known ever after. The price is stage fright, of course; you know you're good but they don't; every year's the first time.

Come in. Welcome. Welcome back even.

The author is Professor of Family Law at Staffordshire University.

D/EE

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POSTS

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APPOINTMENT OF HEAD

The Governors of the Loughborough Endowed Schools invite applications for the Headship of Loughborough Grammar School. The appointment, which carries membership of the H.M.C., falls vacant on the 1st September, 1998, on the retirement of Mr. D.N. Ireland, MA, after 14 years distinguished service.

Loughborough Grammar School is a leading independent day and boarding school with 960 boys aged 10 to 18. The school is a part of the Foundation which includes Loughborough High School for Girls and Fairfield Preparatory School.

Enquiries and applications should be made to:

Mr. K.D. Shaw, MBE, MSc, FCIS,
Bursar and Clerk to the Governors,
Loughborough Endowed Schools,
3 Burton Walks,
Loughborough,
Leicestershire, LE11 2DU.

(Telephone: 01509 267307 Fax: 01509 210486)

Those wishing to apply for the appointment should write a short letter, enclosing a curriculum vitae and full details of 3 referees, to arrive by Friday 3rd October, 1997 at the latest. Applications should be marked 'Private and Confidential'. The Governors hope to make an appointment by 30th November, 1997.



RECTOR

Applications are invited for the post of Rector which will fall vacant in 1998 due to the retirement of John Duff after 18 years.

In addition to high academic ability his successor will require to have a suitable breadth of experience and to demonstrate strong leadership and management skills.

Kelvin's Academy is an independent day-school with 470 boys, 4-18 and a mixed Nursery Department. The Governors have announced that the school will become coeducational from September 1998 at which time girls will be admitted to the Lower School and progressively to the Senior School thereafter. The school enjoys a high academic and sporting reputation and the present Rector is a member of HMC. The Salary will be negotiated at a level above the level of the national scales to reflect the responsibility and importance of the appointment.

Completed applications will be required by October 20th and first interviews will be held in November. Intending applicants should write for further details, including application procedures, to The Rector,

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Kelvin's Academy



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GOLF

Torrance in search of solace

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

TRY AS you might, the Ryder Cup and its attendant issues proved as unavoidable as the fog that blanketed the Forest of Arden course yesterday morning and caused a three-hour delay at the One Two British Masters. No matter that Mark Roe leads after a 65, over the course where three years ago he was hit on the head by a ball, or that Raymond Russell looked for a while as though he might beat the European record of eight consecutive birdies.

Throughout the day, the Ryder Cup was the dominant topic of conversation. Sam Torrance had a 69, three under par, and put his good round down to the disappointment of not making the Europe team for what would have been his ninth appearance. It brought him up with a start. For the first time for 10 years Torrance will not be directly involved in the biennial competition.

"I suppose the pressure is off me now I haven't made the team," Torrance said. "I haven't had a bigger disappointment." Then he paused. "Well, perhaps losing out to Monty [Colin Montgomerie] for the order of merit might have hurt me as much."

It had been thought that Torrance would be a member of Severiano Ballesteros's unofficial staff, one of those who act as his eyes and ears on the course; those roles went to Miguel Angel Jimenez, who is Ballesteros's vice-captain, Mark James and Tommy Horton. Torrance would have loved to have helped out and, judging by the look on his face when asked about it, he was surprised not to have been asked. Instead, he will watch events unfolding on television.

Roe's accident came when he was on the 8th tee during a pro-am and a left-handed

amateur snap-hooked a ball from the 2nd tee. There was no shout of fore and Roe had no warning. One minute he was standing and joking with his amateur partners, the next he was flat on the ground having been cracked on his temple.

He can, and does, joke about it now, especially after a round as good as yesterday's, but it was no laughing matter for the rest of the year in which it happened. He suffered headaches and bad vision and found it difficult to concentrate. Getting divorced did not help.

"I went for a brain scan and that was all clear — they couldn't find one," Roe said. "The amateur did write me a nice letter at the end of it all saying he got on the green in two and got his four and he had had a super day. Naturally I ceremoniously burned the letter."

By the time Roe got to the 8th tee yesterday, a good round was certain. He was eight under par after hitting a series of accurate iron shots. "I had a weird feeling when I walked on to the 8th because the tee was forward, at the same point where I got hit," Roe said. Perhaps this was why he made his only error of the day, mis-hitting his tee shot and chipping weakly.

After that run of eight birdies, it was as if Russell suddenly realised the significance of his achievement. To score as many birdies as that from the start of the round is remarkable, even if it only equals the achievement of five men who have also had eight consecutive birdies in European events these past 12 years. Just when the record was at his mercy, Russell hit the earth with a bang. He took a six on the 9th, a long par-four, and thus was a possible 28 turned into a 30.



Torrance keeps his mind on the job in hand at the British Masters yesterday

Two lead as big guns misfire

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN REFRATH

KAREN PEARCE, an Australian from Toowoomba, and Maria Hjorth, a Swede from Falun, shared the lead on 67, five under par, after the first round of the Hennessy Cup at the Golf und Land-Club Köln, near Cologne, yesterday.

On a calm, sunny day, only three other players broke par to share third place on 71. They were the Anglo-Scottish Solheim Cup duo of Lisa Hackney and Dale Reid, and Joanne Mills, an affable Australian, from Sydney, with an affinity for Germany — she won the German Open in Hamburg in July, her maiden victory on the American Express Tour.

The big guns failed to fire.

Laura Davies, the world No 3, is suffering a mild slump and her 75 contained only one birdie. Her putting is still a worry and the greens here are fast and tricky enough to cause concern. After the round, Davies spent a little time on the putting green, seeking some sort of rhythm by stroking the putts with her left hand while wielding a lollipop in her right.

Marie-Laure de Lorenzi, the Frenchwoman who lies second on the order of merit, also struggled, to a lacklustre 74. They at least were still in touch with the leaders but Trish Johnson was seriously adrift after a 77. The Englishwoman capped a tough day by tangling with the trees at

the last and taking a double-bogey seven.

Karen Lunn, the Australian who won the last tournament, in Paris, and eased through the qualifying for the US Tour, had an unexpected 81 and Joanne Morley, the Solheim Cup player from Cheshire, also hit 80, with matching halves of 40.

Pearce, who has been commuting to the United States to play on the Futures Tour — she won an event in Syracuse last month — had no such worries and did not drop a shot, recording birdies at all four of the par-fives. Hjorth, a big hitter, did not — she had a bogey six at the 2nd — but had birdies at four of the next five holes.

HOCKEY

Slough set their sights on striking gold in Europe

By CATHY HARRIS

THE meeting tomorrow between Slough, the premier division champions, and Hightown, the cup-holders, in the first game of the National League season will be the match of the day.

Hightown are rebuilding after losing several key players, including Maggie Souvay, the former England captain, and Caroline Gilbert, the England Under-21 defender, who has signed for the newcomers, Olton.

The title-holders also have problems, though. Karen Brown, the world's most-capped player, is out with a wrist injury and two other internationals, Sam Wright and Helen Thornalley, are ill. Sally Eyre, another England player, is not available this year because of her studies.

Sue MacDonald, the prolific Scottish forward, will make her league debut for Slough, five times the champions. Sue Chandler, the captain, said: "She has really impressed me in our preseason training. She's fast, direct, works hard and, best of all, puts the ball in the back of the net."

Chandler said that Slough's main aim this season was to win a gold medal in Europe. "We have a really versatile squad and our coach, John Shaw, has been experiment-

ing with quite a few different line-ups and tactics. I believe everything's in place for us to win the European club championship — we're just sick and tired of coming second in both indoor and outdoor competitions."

The main challenge to the Berkshire club could, in Chandler's opinion, come from Ipswich and Clifton, who finished second and third respectively last season. She said: "They're our biggest threats. Ipswich are always a classy outfit and I thought Clifton let it slip last season, but it will also be interesting to see what Olton do."

The Warwickshire team, coached by Gavin Featherstone, swept to two successive promotions before joining the premier division. They have

recruited some high-quality players, including Fiona Greenham, the England Under-21 captain, Gilbert and Helen Grant, from Hightown, and two American players, Kristen Holmes and Samantha Salvia. Olton's five England Under-21 players, recently returned from the junior World Cup in Seoul, will all be in action against Trojans.

Featherstone said: "Everyone is expecting us to do well and, although we're aware of the challenge ahead, it won't be easy. We have seven new players and it will be the first time the side has played together. My great concern is that some teams will adopt a very physical approach and we need to prepare for that."

In the first division, Leicester, relegated last season, have retained their five young England internationals and Lynn Bollington starts her twentieth season for the club. Loughborough Students, who are newly promoted and coached by Mary Nevill, the former Great Britain captain, could also be contenders for another title.

This year one team only will be automatically relegated from the second division, with the seventh-placed club going into the play-offs.

DETAILS

PREMIER DIVISION: Slough, Hightown, Sutton Coldfield, Clifton, Olton, Ipswich, Doncaster.
FIRST DIVISION: Loughborough Students, Clifton, Loughborough, Loughborough Students, Clifton, Loughborough, Loughborough Students, Clifton, Loughborough, Loughborough Students, Clifton.
SECOND DIVISION: Loughborough, Loughborough Students, Clifton, Loughborough, Loughborough Students, Clifton, Loughborough, Loughborough Students, Clifton.
THIRD DIVISION: Loughborough, Loughborough Students, Clifton, Loughborough, Loughborough Students, Clifton, Loughborough, Loughborough Students, Clifton.

England overwhelm Egypt

England 4
Egypt 1

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

ENGLAND delighted their supporters with a display of attacking hockey that overran Egypt and secured their second victory in the junior World Cup at Milton Keynes yesterday.

The result should boost England's confidence for the important match against Germany, the holders, tomorrow — especially the way they weathered a testing first-half display by Egypt.

The interval arrived with England clinging precariously to a 1-0 advantage obtained in the thirteenth minute, when Boyse gathered the ball from deep inside the 25-yard area and cut his way through on the right to score.

A rush through the middle by England immediately after the interval led to a short corner and David Mathews increased the lead. Mathews then wasted two good chances before he made amends in the 52nd minute by converting another short corner.

Egypt's persistence was rewarded when Mohamed Samer scored in the 56th

minute. Egypt, however, undermined their efforts when they lost one of their best defenders, Amro El Fatah, who was sent off for a dangerous tackle.

England wrapped up their win in the 63rd minute with a penalty stroke converted by Simons.

ENGLAND: J. Boworth, J. Everett, Margaret Koczar, B. Gann, R. Stemp, D. Haydon, M. Johnson, T. Mathews, A. Boyse, M. Team, A. Simons. Subs used: D. Mathews, R. Innes, P. Wicks, S. Humphries. EGYPT: Mohamed El Beome, Ahmed Mansour, Ezzam El Sad, Amro El Fatah, Hosam Samer, Walid Mousa, Hosam Zohry, El Said Mousa, Mohamed Mahmoud, Ahmed Wally, El Said Gaballa. Subs used: I. Said Hassan, Ahmed Abbas, Ahmed Taha, Mohamed El Makh. Umpires: S. Quashq (India) and E. Denis (Belgium).

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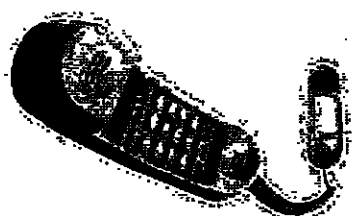
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1997

The party's definitely over for yachtsmen in round-the-world race

Whitbread drinking had to stop

I was during the SORC regatta in Florida, back in February 1981, that my Whitbread round-the-world race career began, when I plucked up the courage to approach David Bongers, the notorious South African sailor.

Bongers had a reputation as a tough guy, a hard sailor and a big drinker and I was quite intimidated by him. But my desire to get my first ride on a Whitbread boat overcame my fear. Bongers, who was to sail on board Padda Kuttel's *Xargo III* in the next race, agreed to let me help him to deliver a 42-foot yacht across the Atlantic to Ireland. If I made the grade, I would join Kuttel's 1981-82 Whitbread crew.

Four of us left Fort Lauderdale for the 3,000-mile trip to Cork on the Rob Holland-designed *Recession*. This was a boat with somewhat erratic downwind characteristics. I remember, on the second day of the trip, being on watch alone with the spinnaker up as darkness fell and the wind got up.

I was banging on the deck to attract Bongers's attention and he eventually slid the hatch open. His wild eyes, surrounded by an afro head of hair and beard, demanded to know what the matter was. "We have to take the spinnaker down, we are out of control," I shouted. "If you can't steer, you're a big puss," he replied and went below. I guess that was the day that I learnt to steer downwind in a big blow.

The race boat, *Xargo III*, was a Sparkman & Stephens blue-water cruising yacht. It was not the ideal racing boat, but it was the one Kuttel had chosen for his first attempt at the Whitbread. Eleven first-time Whitbread sailors set off on the adventure of a lifetime. We had our own supply of KVV vintage brandy and wine - weight was not the crucial issue it is today. Those were amateur times and we were not answerable to a leading sponsor, so we made the most of the free parties.

Very little maintenance was done to the yachts at the stopovers, because they didn't need it. Instead, the emphasis was on having a good time and exploring. Although we



As competitors get set for Sunday's start, Paul Standbridge says there has never been so much at stake

raced as hard as we could, there were occasions when the KVV got the better of us and I remember some dangerous sails calls and even crew missing a whole watch due to overindulging. Our best result on *Xargo III* was second place on leg three.

In the next race, in 1985 - the fourth in the Whitbread series - we got a purpose-built racer, *Atlantic Privateer*, an 81ft Bruce Farr-designed maxi. Again Kuttel was the owner-skipper. Bongers the sailing master, but the crew were a wild bunch. Misbehaviour in Uruguay before the race, when several ended up in jail, cost us our valuable sponsor, Apple.

In the end, the boat sailed most of the race unsponsored, with Kuttel paying the bills. We were first in leg two to Auckland and continued our rampage round the world. This time there was no brandy while we were sailing, but we made up for it when we got ashore. Those were probably the best times we would ever have on a Whitbread, but the times were changing fast.

In 1989, Rothmans arrived with a £6 million budget. With Lawrie Smith as skipper, we were ready for business. Training started at 7am five mornings a week for 13 months! We raced hard, we



The crew of Toshiba put in some late practice on the Solent for the race on Sunday

worked hard and, in our limited free time, we had a cocktail.

It was a very competitive race with ten maxis in hot pursuit of first place. Now we were eating freeze-dried food and sitting on the rail for hours on end. We finished fourth, but the party was most definitely over.

In the last race, in 1993-94, the Whitbread 60 made its first appearance, more like a dinghy than an offshore racing yacht. I was with Smith again on the fully-sponsored

Intrum Justitia. The pressure was on like never before - the boats were evenly matched and intense concentration was required to get an edge.

The enjoyment now was in the speed of the boat, not the drunken parties. *Intrum* set the fastest 24-hour record for a monohull of 428 miles - it was the thrill of a lifetime. We finished second overall in the 60 class.

So, on Sunday, I am starting my fifth Whitbread, with eight stopovers and ten almost identical W60s. I am racing on

Toshiba, managed by Team Dennis Connor and skippered by the intense Chris Dickson, and there will be no excuses for coming second. Training starts at 6am, six days a week, the sail programme is more complex, the freeze-dried food the same, though there is even less of it in the never-ending quest to save weight.

It is going to be intense, tough and it's going to be my last. We have had the adventure, the fun, the maxis and Whitbread 60s. Who knows what will happen next.

Britain enters into the cup spirit again

By Edward Gorman
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THE British America's Cup campaign for Auckland in 2000 yesterday came into the open with an impressive presentation of its design and research programme and the announcement of the principal technical partners.

If there remained doubts as to who will lead the sailing side, Lawrie Smith took the afternoon off from his preparations for the Whitbread round-the-world race to be confirmed officially as Gosport as the "director of sailing" for the campaign. The syndicate, which operates under the auspices of the Royal Dorset Yacht Club, hopes to

capture the public imagination under the title *Spirit of Britain*.

Smith is planning to go straight from the Whitbread race, which starts from Cowes on Sunday, into the America's Cup build-up. He will decide who will sail on the boat, who will steer it and all aspects of the on-the-water programme. He said British sailors would predominate and the best available talent would be picked.

Smith named John Merricks, the Olympic silver medalist, as an example of the up-and-coming stars he would be looking at and did not rule out working with Chris Law, the veteran match-racer.

The syndicate is led by Professor

Andrew Graves, of the University of Bath and MIT. In the core group is Ian Howlett, who will design two race boats, and the sail-maker, Angus Melrose. The main technical partners are the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency at Gosport, where the syndicate will have its first office, the universities of Bath, Bristol and Southampton, Silicon Graphics, SP Systems, the British Marine Industries Federation and the Parametric Technology Corporation.

Although the design capability is effectively in place, the syndicate still requires most of its estimated £15 million budget, for which it targets major commercial companies. Mel-

rose said he hoped boat building could begin in 12 months.

Prof Graves believes the campaign - which will mark Britain's return to the America's Cup after being absent for the last three - should be the first of a series of tilts at international sailing's biggest prize. He wants the *Spirit of Britain* to demonstrate the best in British engineering, design and sailing talent and hopes for government support and backing from the National Lottery.

In the recent past, he said, British know-how had been used to win the Cup by foreign-based syndicates. Now it was time for Britain to use those resources itself.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 38

ANANIAS

(a) With his wife Sapphira sold his possessions but gave only part of the proceeds to the apostles. Upon being rebuked by Peter, he fell down dead. Ignorant of this fatality, Sapphira came three hours later practising the same deception and, being discovered, also fell down dead. Whose scene bloody.

SHEM

(c) The eldest son of Noah and eponymous progenitor of the Semitic races. With his brother Japheth he managed to cover Noah's nakedness without seeing it. Abraham was descended from him.

ZADOK

(c) A priest. With Nathan the prophet he played a decisive part in securing the throne for Solomon upon the death of David. The Establishment was split between Solomon and his brother Adonijah. Zadok was rewarded with the office of chief priest, which his family held until the time of the Maccabees. The Sadducees may have got their name from him. Handel's anthem for the coronation of George II in Westminster Abbey in 1727 begins "Zadok the Priest and Nathan the Prophet anointed Solomon King..."

CALEB

(b) Son of Jephthah of the tribe of Judah, close companion of Joshua and, with him, the only one of the Israelites who crossed both the Red Sea and the River Jordan into the Promised Land. Joshua the Son of Nun/And Caleb the Son of Jephthah/ Were the only two/ Who ever got through/ To the Land of Milk and Honey.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

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SPEEDWAY

Hancock's friend turns foe

By Tony Hoare

GREG HANCOCK, the world championship leader, goes into the final grand prix of the season tomorrow night knowing that the only man with a realistic chance of stopping him from taking the title is his closest friend in the sport.

Billy Hamill, the world champion, is second in the standings and insists that there will be no favours in Vojens, Denmark, as he chases a second world title.

The pair, both 27 and American, were team-mates with Cradley Heath, the British League team, from 1990 until last season and also form the most successful racing outfit in speedway, Team Exide. Hancock, who has

won two grands prix this year, holds a 12-point lead in the world championship standings and needs to finish at least fifth in the Danish grand prix to secure the crown.

Should he finish lower than fifth, however, and his team-mate win the meeting, then Hamill will become the first rider in ten years successfully to defend the world title. Hamill said: "It was a lifetime achievement to win last year and I am striving to win it again. It would be great to do it back-to-back. I am the only guy who can stop Greg now and that is what I am aiming to do."

"It will be no holds barred. I wouldn't expect that from Greg if the situation was

turned and I'm sure he doesn't expect it from me. We are both striving for the same trophy.

"For Greg to win would be a major achievement and I would be very happy for him, as he was for me last year. If he has won, then so be it and I will be there to enjoy the celebration party. Until then, my eyes are on the world championship."

Hancock said: "I am expecting no favours from Billy because he has everything to go for as well. Winning the world championship means everything to me and I want to go and fulfil my dream. I am looking forward to coming away with the world championship."

Angling for the Nile perch

The Big Catch

BBC2, 8.00pm

"I suppose my style is somewhere between Jeremy Clarkson and Michael Palin," says the presenter of this series on international angling, "former top showbiz agent" Liam Dale. Well, it isn't. But if you're into hunting, hooking and landing huge exotic creatures - and weighting them as they writhe and toss - then this is for you (Britain has, after all, "3.5 million passionate anglers"). The chunky Liam, sailing with different fishermen each week, will be tracking everything from skate in Scotland to Beluga sturgeon in Kazakhstan. He begins on Lake Nasser in Egypt - 2,400 square miles of freshwater created by the Aswan Dam. His quarry is the Nile perch - a voracious carnivore weighing up to 200lb. To be fair, the anglers throw back most of what they catch and are turned on more by a good fight than a kill.

Ground Force

BBC2, 8.30pm

Following on the heels of the reels and baiters, a rather gentler series - a sort of *Gardeners' World* meets *Changing Rooms*, well fertilised by the "lodge-pole" factor. The idea is that "market researchers" buttonhole a logical "victim" such as a new householder with a barren patch of land and ask them what their ideal garden would be. Then they are tricked into spending 48 hours away while Alan Titchmarsh and his team move in, trying to keep within a prearranged budget. Tonight weeds are replanted artistically (the first unsuspecting owner having said she likes a country feel), earth is churned up, turf laid, a patio pegged out, trees planted, even a compost bin, birdbath and barbecue laid on. There is no doubting the ecstasy and astonishment of Mary Lowe in Rockland St Mary, Norfolk, when she sees the result.

The Practice

ITV, 9.00pm

After last week's pilot the series about the idealistic Boston law firm starts in earnest, using the now familiar formula of rapid cutting and panning to highlight several plotlines at once. (Hardly surprising here as writer/producers David Kelley was also responsible for *LA Law* and *Chicago*.)



Intrepid fisherman Liam Dale (BBC2)

Hope), Dylan McDermott, who plays chief lawyer and shaker Bobby, certainly has the requisite charisma as he and his team battle for the rights of a terrorised wife and her small son - not for nothing does the lad appear early on in a Robin Hood costume complete with bow and arrows. Then there's a psychotic armed robber. The ongoing (very topical) suing of a giant tobacco firm and the equally ongoing efforts of all the young lawyers to raise enough funding simply to pay their household bills.

Room 101

BBC2, 10.00pm

End of the line and, though it may seem we have been promised Ulrika Jonsson before, she really does appear. Nick Hancock's series. She's a bit of an oddball (she's gorgeous to a fault and proud of it (note the coquettish use of legs and tossing hair) but she also has an almost blatant sense of humour. Witness her illustration of how a Country types might cope with one of her pet hares - yapping Yorkshire terriers. Other hates include depressing over-disciplined doctors' surgeries (look out for one of the funniest film clips in the series), sweaty locker-rooms (why are Nick and his guests so preoccupied with knickers and dirty socks?), school hockey and American football (an obsession with non-stop keep-fit channels. Hit and miss the series may have been, but the hits have far outnumbered the misses. Elizabeth Cowley

RADIO CHOICE

Kaleidoscope Feature: Rocket Man and the Chipolata Fingers
Radio 4, 9.30pm

The second and final part of Paul Gambaccini's interview with Elton John, which for frankness and an absence of prevarication takes some beating. The troubles of wealthy artists are not normally a cause to detain most of us for long but John is so up-front and indeed matter-of-fact about his troubles in the 1980s that the listener is compelled to feel for the man. John clearly prolonged his drug dependency by convincing himself that fame and money meant he needed no help, a conviction which faded after he had returned to drugs several times. John says that it was 16 years before he was able to admit that he needed help. Once he did, he started to recover.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 8.00am Simon Mayo 12.00am Mary Anne Hobbes. Includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00am Nicky Campbell 4.00am Kevin Greening 6.15am Newsbeat 6.30am Peter Tong 8.55am Section 10.00am One in the Jungle 12.00am Radio 1 Rap Show with Tim Westwood 3.00am Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30am Wake Up to Wogan 8.30am Ken Bruce 11.30am Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Rowe 3.00pm Steve Wright 5.00pm John Peel 7.00pm Denis Cleave 8.00pm The Best of Times 7.30pm Friday Night is Music Night. The BBC Concert Orchestra under Barry Wordsworth, from the Opera House, Bolton. With guest singers Jacqui Fugère, John Cashmore and guests Juan Martin 8.15pm The Talker of Panama. John Le Carré reads part seven of his book, *Panama*, a major international conspiracy 9.30pm Listen to the Band. Renton presents and conducts a session from the Desford Colliery Band in Leicestershire 10.00pm The Arts Programme with Sheridan Morley 12.00am Charles Nove 4.00am Diane Louise Jordan

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast 8.00am The Magazine 12.00pm Midday 2.00pm Radio 5 News 7.00pm News 7.30pm Alan Green's Sportsbook 8.30pm Friday Sport. Includes second half commentary on Brentford v Wycombe Wanderers. David Case presents the Nationwide League action from Griffin Park. Plus golf from the British Masters 10.00pm Paper Talk 11.00pm News Extra 12.00am After Hours 2.00am Up All Night with Richard Dailly 5.00am Morning Reports

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross and Carol McGiffin 9.00am Scott Chisholm 12.00pm News 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00pm Peter Dinkley 7.00pm Muz Day's Sportszone 10.00am Mike Allen 1.00am Mike Dillon

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday 6.30am Europe Today 7.00am News 7.15 The World Today 7.30am Close Encounters 7.45 The Way We Are 8.00am News 8.15am On the Spot. Red Dwarf 8.30am Music Review 8.50am News 9.00am News (640 only) 9.10am Pause for Thought 9.15am News 9.30am News 9.40am News 10.00am News 10.15 The Learning World 10.30am BBC English: Speaking of English 10.45am Sport 11.00am Newsday 11.30am Plants of Power 12.00am Newsday 12.30am Focus on Faith 1.00am News 1.15am News 1.30am News 1.45am News 1.55am News 2.00am News 2.15am News 2.30am News 2.45am News 2.55am News 3.00am News 3.15am News 3.30am News 3.45am News 3.55am News 4.00am News 4.15am News 4.30am News 4.45am News 4.55am News 5.00am News 5.15am News 5.30am News 5.45am News 5.55am News 6.00am News 6.15am News 6.30am News 6.45am News 6.55am News 7.00am News 7.15am News 7.30am News 7.45am News 7.55am News 8.00am News 8.15am News 8.30am News 8.45am News 8.55am News 9.00am News 9.15am News 9.30am News 9.45am News 9.55am News 10.00am News 10.15am News 10.30am News 10.45am News 10.55am News 11.00am News 11.15am News 11.30am News 11.45am News 11.55am News 12.00am News 12.15am News 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The very model of a television science show

Test for you. Imagine: you are in charge of a national TV channel. A producer comes to you with an idea for a scientific programme. It seems, she says, that some of the principles of alternative medicine might not be entirely wrong after all and that there is some small scientific evidence that one's state of mind might be able to exert some equally small effect on the state of one's health. You're interested.

The programme you commission is: *a) It's All In The Mind*, a fast-paced, early evening studio-based show in which Rudi Grant, Carol Vorderman and Zoe Ball show us, with the help of just two new research means those wacky alternative medicines might have got it right after all.

b) *Mind Over Matter*, a live and lively debate between the High Poobah of the Confederation of Homeopaths, the press officer

of high street needle franchise Acupuncture Is Us, our own Dr Thomas Stafford and an audience of assorted suited clinicians and sandal-wearing New Ager, moderated by Robert Kilroy Silk, who gets his teeth smacked when he intervenes in a fistfight between an irate reflexologist from Booter and the President of the Royal College of Podiatrists.

c) *Don't Mind Me*, in which suave, dinner-jacketed hypnotist Paul McKenna demonstrates the uncanny power of the mind by persuading a barmaid from Wytheham that she's Carol Vorderman singing *Heartbreak Hotel* to an audience of Korean nuns.

d) *Mind Over Body*, an episode of *Horizon* (BBC2) in which the people who actually did the research talk about their work, engagingly and prove that a cracking narrative can be carved out of a tale of scientific discovery without ever needing to make any

more claims for their findings than the results allow.

If you answered (a) there's a great job for you on prime-time TV, filling the quota for scientific programming with something which is near enough to science to fool the punters — who'd otherwise probably be watching *Coronation Street* anyway.

If (b) then, like so many daytime TV producers, you understand that true scientific debate is about personalities rather than results. If (c), you're a Channel 3 sort of guy or gal — you know that science needn't be boring old men with test-tubes, but can be fun, fun, fun! Provided that you leave out all that scientific stuff. If (d), you were responsible for my getting down on my knees last night and thanking the Lord for the BBC.

Horizon is one of the few remaining places in television where they take science seriously

REVIEW



John Diamond

and where the production staff see their secondary duty — the primary one being to the viewers — as being to science rather than to tabloid headlines.

Mind Over Body looked at one of those apparently commonsense propositions, the sort of thing that "everybody knows": that positive thinking helps to cure disease. Certainly since I started writing about my own illness in this paper

I've had any number of letters from readers telling me that it's a proven fact that those who think the right thoughts stand a better chance of recovering from cancer.

In fact, any other than anecdotal proof for this belief is hard to find. We'd like to believe it to be true, and so much of pop science on TV nowadays is about what we'd like to believe rather than about what is provably the case.

The problem is that the idea of the mind's affecting the body's chemical and mechanical processes contravenes 20th-century science's credo that the two work entirely independently of each other. Prove otherwise and suddenly all sorts of medical impossibilities are wiped out.

On any other channel *Mind Over Body* would have been dragged into the sceptic-orthodox versus credulous-alternative-heterodox rough-house: *Horizon* avoided that fight because it

understood that the real tussle is between science and science. It understood that when science takes an element of the alternative's creed and proves through experimentation that a phenomenon is replicable and consistent, this is a substantiation of science rather than of the alternative's anti-science.

The programme's great trick is in maintaining its tight focus. Last night's story was a simple one: that of the relationship between particular neurochemicals and particular parts of the immune system. It started quietly — with the story of a young girl who was trained to replicate mentally the effect of taking a chemical remedy for her overactive immune system — and progressed in a restrained way through some of the other work in the new field of psychoneuroimmunology, including one

study which seemed to take as its starting point the belief that marriage is of itself a stressful estate.

At no point was anybody tempted to make more of the results than they could or should. On lesser programmes, those with an eye to their Light Ent's rivals on the other side, this would have drifted into a speculative look at what the repercussions might be if the research is taken further.

Here the producer kept to the show's brief: at every point it was emphasised that the results show the brain may interact with the immune system and may be able to extend life — but that isn't the same as saying that pure thoughts can cure illness.

It wasn't the most important scientific programme, nor the most gripping. But in an age in which science is so often seen as an incomprehensible threat, it was a model of what science on TV can, and should, be.

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (43722)
- 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (198914703)
- 9.00am *Can't Cook, Won't Cook* (1) (2789600)
- 9.30am *Style Challenge* Two lap-dancing pensioners (1527600)
- 9.55am *Kilroy* (1) (5649161)
- 10.35am *Change That* (1) (1739987)
- 11.00am News (1) Regional News and weather (4936155)
- 11.05am *The Really Useful Show* (1) (9041074)
- 11.35am *Room for Improvement* Denise Waterman visits a church converted into a stylish home by restaurateur Barnardette O'Shea. Last in series (2612074)
- 12.00am News (1) and weather (8571277)
- 12.05pm *Call My Bluff* (1) (978608)
- 12.35pm *Going for a Song* (1) (9782329) WALES: 12.35pm *Retirement Results* (5726223)
- 1.00pm News (1) and weather (58567)
- 1.30pm *Regional News* (1) (17586155)
- 1.40pm *The Weather Show* (1) (87441068)
- 1.45pm *Neighbours* (1) (77382548)
- 2.10pm *Quincy* Two apparently unrelated murders intrigue Quincy (1) (8998587)
- 3.00pm *Through the Keyhole* (1) (1074)
- 3.30pm *Playdays* (8326703) 3.50pm *Dear Mr Barker* (1) (726216)
- 4.00pm *Ben & Kate* (1) (8998093)
- 4.10pm *To Me, to You* Last in series (1) (4832093)
- 4.35pm *Agent Z* and the Penguin from Mars (1) (1) (8626432)
- 5.00pm *Newsworld* (1) (9165008)
- 5.10pm *Blue Peter* (1) (5127394)
- 5.35pm *Neighbours* (1) (1) (329906)
- 6.00pm News (1) and weather (529)
- 6.30pm *Regional News* (1) (109)
- 7.00pm *Weekend Watchdog* With Anne Robinson. Includes advice on planning a cheaper weekend break. Plus: an examination of the success of the Manchester United football club (1) (7106)
- 7.30pm *Top of the Pops* (1) (203)
- 8.00pm *Vets in Practice* New puppy brings new problems for the vets. Trudi treats a German shepherd puppy which has swallowed a toy. Alison and her boyfriend face a momentous decision; Julie restarts her career in Runcom (1) (2703)
- 8.30pm *Keeping Up Appearances* Comedy with Patricia Routledge (1) (1) (1838)
- 9.00pm News (1) and weather (3890)
- 9.30pm *Dangerfield: Blood Money* Good Samaritan Al offers sanctuary to a mugging victim, only to discover her guest is involved in smuggling illegal immigrants into Britain as cheap labour (1) (10568)
- 10.20pm *Paradise* The interviews Michael Parkinson introduces an archive interview with Bob Hope (1) (911567)
- 11.00pm *Uncommon Valor* (1983) starring Gene Hackman and Patrick Swayze. A Vietnam veteran takes the law into his own hands when the authorities fail to track down his missing son. Directed by Ted Kotcheff (1) (144548)
- 12.45am *Food Vengeance* (1982) Chuck Norris high-kicks his way, as a Vietnam veteran turned security man, through this martial arts thriller directed by James Fargo (2534846)
- 2.10am *Weather* (1) (1556136)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes. These allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. The numbers in the Video PlusCode for the programme are: VideoPlus+ (V), PlusCode (P) and Video Programmer are trademarks of: Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

- 6.00am *Open University: Social Problems and Social Welfare* (4639703) 6.25am *Modelling in the Money Markets* (4658838) 6.50am *Selling* (5456638)
- 7.15pm *See Hear Breakfast News* (4586258)
- 7.30pm *Smurfs Adventures* (1) (6687635) 7.55pm *Cartoon Critics* (1) (5519513) 8.20pm *William's Wish Wellingtons* (1) (3291569)
- 8.25pm *Wishing* (1) (7345667) 8.35pm *Teletubbies* (1) (1294703) 9.00pm *Harry and the Hendersons* (1) (2786771) 9.25pm *Gordon* (1) (3057093) 9.45pm *Rocky Star* (b/w) (8852890) 9.50pm *Cartoon* (877155)
- 10.00pm *Teletubbies* (20242)
- 10.30pm *The Lone Rider in Ghost Town* (1941, b/w) Musical western with George Houston as the harmonic horseman. Directed by Sam Newfield (3817364)
- 11.25pm *The Fugitive* (b/w) (1) (6113616)
- 12.15pm *Unspeakeable Verse* (1) (7325703) 12.30pm *Working Lunch* (89056)
- 1.00pm *The Little Polar Bear* (1) (7385451)
- 1.05pm *Pingu* (1) (7356472) 1.10pm *The Crut* Hour (7882744) 2.10pm *Consuming Passions* (11460109)
- 2.20pm *Racing from Newbury* A four-race card featuring the 2.40, 3.10, 3.40 and 4.10 (5639451)
- 4.30pm *Going, Going, Go* (8625703) 4.55pm *Ether: Astrology* (8641154) 5.30pm *Today's the Day* (258)
- 6.00pm *Star Trek: The Next Generation* with an old friend turns out (1) (171093)
- 6.50pm *The X-Files* (857987)
- 7.00pm *The Whitbread Round the World Race Preview* (8797)
- 7.30pm *Motormouth* The climax of the British Rally Championship; the battle for the Ashes in the Bathurst 1000; and the Super Touring Championship (635) WALES: Wales 2001 Devolution Special
- 8.00pm *The Big Catch* New series. Liam Dale fishes for the legendary Nile perch (1) (8695)
- 8.30pm *Ground Force* New series. Alan Titchmarsh transforms a Norfolk garden in just two days (2180)
- 9.00pm *Red Dwarf* (1) (1432)
- 9.30pm *Shooting Stars: The Best Bits* (1) (12180)



Ulfka Jonsson's pet hates (10pm)

- 10.00pm *Room 101* Ulfka Jonsson chooses rooms and justifies her pet hates. Last in series (73703)
- 10.30pm *Newsnight* (1) (674548)
- 11.15pm *VR 5* Sydney gets involved with an underground bank clerk (642106)
- 12.00am *Walking on Thin Ice* Last in series (1001691)
- 12.10am *Japanese Manga* (3426285)
- 12.40am *Aldre* (1988) Animation set in 21st-century Japan, directed by Katsuhiro Otomo (914372)
- 2.40am *Weather* (7068198)

HTV

- 6.00am GMTV (7402819)
- 9.25pm *Supermarket Sweep* (2785884)
- 9.55pm *Regional News* (1) (1315345)
- 10.00pm *The Time, the Place* (1) (24068)
- 10.30pm *This Morning* (1) (1812348)
- 12.20pm *HTV News* (650161) (6586109)
- 12.30pm *News* (1) and weather (9885426)
- 12.55pm *Wales: Referendum '97: Wales Decides* Reaction from across Wales to the results of the Welsh Assembly Referendum (776645)
- 1.25pm *Dogs with Dances* (9766345) 1.25pm *Home and Away* (1) (5849006) 1.50pm *Murder, She Wrote* (1) (3890890)
- 2.50pm *Wales: What's My Line?* (6077819)
- 3.00pm *Garden Calendar* (1) (6077819)
- 3.20pm *News* (1) (4097451)
- 3.25pm *Regional News* (1) (4096722)
- 3.30pm *Joe's World* (1) (1680068) 3.40pm *Kipper* (7416800) 3.50pm *Oscar and Friends* (7412884) 4.00pm *Roger and the Rottertoots* (2829987) 4.15pm *Hurricanes* (4826432) 4.40pm *Fun House* (1) (7423819)
- 5.10pm *A Country Practice* (2582600)
- 5.40pm *News* (1) and weather (498684)
- 6.00pm *Home and Away* (1) (648833)
- 6.25pm *HTV Weather* (359635)
- 6.30pm *HTV News* (1) (277)
- 7.00pm *Emmerdale* Pollard confronts Marion about the pills (1) (1451)
- 7.30pm *Coronation Street* Steve finds himself in deep trouble with Alan (1) (161)
- 8.00pm *The Bill* CID and uniform branches compete against each other in an attempt to solve the most crimes (1) (4971)



Supernatural Michael Aspel (8.30pm)

- 8.30pm *Strange But True* Michael Aspel introduces more life stories of the supernatural (1) (6908)
- 9.00pm *THE PRACTICE* The Practice Drama series set in a Boston public defence practice (1) (4277)
- 10.00pm *News* (1) and weather (77529)
- 10.30pm *Regional News* (1) (387136)
- 10.40pm *Wales: Referendum '97: Wales Decides* Analysis of the results (951109)
- 10.40pm *Late and Live* (8367109)
- 11.15pm *Wales: The Big Story: Public Shaming* (162449)
- 11.45pm *Wales: Weekly World News* (663242)
- 12.10am *Wales: The LADS* (1) (3453339)
- 12.10am *Short Story Cinema* (3453339)
- 12.40pm *The Paul Ross Show* (5708827)
- 2.10pm *Young Einstein* (1989) starring and directed by Yahoo Serious with Odile Le Clezio and John Howard. Off-beat telling of Einstein's humble beginnings growing up in the Swiss Alps (2582600)
- 3.35pm *National Amateur Garden Show* (Move Club) (1) (5320284) 4.35pm *Coronation Street* (1) (1456372) 5.00pm *Coronation Street* (1) (57778) 5.30pm *News* (19575)

CENTRAL

- As HTV West except:
 - 12.55pm-1.25pm *A Country Practice* (9766345)
 - 2.50-3.20pm *Surprise Chefs* (8077819)
 - 5.10-5.40pm *Shortland Street* (2582600)
 - 6.25-7.00pm *Home and Away* (604906)
 - 10.40pm *Central Weekend Live* (9367109)
 - 12.10pm *Campus Cops* (3453339)
 - 2.10pm *The LADS* (9349552)
 - 2.45pm *Box Office America* (7233001)
 - 3.50pm *Heller Skelter* (4770469)
 - 4.40pm *Central Jobber* (97) (8822389)
 - 5.20pm *Asian Eye* (1142914)
- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.55pm *Home and Away* (9766345)
 - 1.25pm *Dressing Up* (8693118)
 - 1.55pm *Westcountry Update* (7730180)
 - 2.25-3.20pm *Blue Heelers* (5399862)
 - 5.10-5.40pm *Home and Away* (2582600)
 - 6.00-7.00pm *Westcountry Live* (58631)
 - 10.30pm *Westcountry News* (976068)
 - 10.45pm *Dignity* (413548)
 - 11.45pm *Hunter* (358258)
- MERIDIAN**
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.55-1.25pm *Shortland Street* (9766345)
 - 1.50pm *Serve You Right* (7730180)
 - 2.20-3.20pm *Highway to Heaven* (8239971)
 - 5.10-5.40pm *Home and Away* (2582600)
 - 6.00-7.00pm *Meridian Tonight* (58631)
 - 10.30pm *Meridian News and Weather* (976068)
 - 10.45pm *The Magic and Mystery Show* (912726)
 - 11.15pm *Weekly World News* (162249)
 - 11.45pm *WiseGuy* (358258)
 - 5.00am *FreeScreen* (59778)
- ANGLIA**
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.19pm *Anglia Air Watch* (8483068)
 - 12.55-1.25pm *A Country Practice* (9766345)
 - 1.50pm *A Splash of Colour* (7730180)
 - 2.20-3.20pm *Highway to Heaven* (8239971)
 - 5.10-5.40pm *Shortland Street* (2582600)
 - 6.23pm *Anglia Weather* (350364)
 - 6.25-7.00pm *Anglia News* (804906)
 - 10.29pm *Anglia Air Watch* (8483068)
 - 10.30pm *Anglia News Extra* (86277)
 - 11.00pm *Film: The Haunted Palace* (148364)

CHANNEL 4

- 5.55pm *Sesame Street* (36432) 7.00pm *The Big Breakfast* (31890) 9.00pm *Something So Right* (87908)
- 9.30pm *Half Angel* (1) (15341) Comedy with Loretta Young as a prim nurse whose personality changes when she sleepwalks. Directed by Richard Sale (4107971)
- 10.55pm *Exposed: Graduation ceremonies* (984971)
- 11.00pm *The Great Outdoors* (1) (6364)
- 11.30pm *Here's One I Made Earlier* Parrotfish and crab salad; spicy lamb with fruit and veg; baked bananas, lemon and rum sauce (1) (7033)
- 12.00pm *Sesame Street* (94242) 12.30pm *Baby* (21884) 1.00pm *Light Lunch* (1) (22567)
- 2.00pm *Five Fingers* (1952, b/w) starring James Mason and Michael Rennie. A clerk in the British Embassy in Ankara during the Second World War sells secrets to the Nazis. Directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz (4890)
- 4.00pm *Bewitched* (1) (860) 4.30pm *Countdown* (1) (6747971) 4.55pm *Ricki Lake* (1) (3390682) 5.30pm *Absolutely Animals* (4/8) (1) (1) (428)
- 6.00pm *TFI Friday* with Chris Evans. The guests include Robbie Coltrane (58613)
- 7.00pm *Channel 4 News* (1) (833364)
- 7.55pm *Get Sorted* Carpet cleaning (262180)
- 8.00pm *Garden Party* A visit to the Garden in Mind in West Sussex (1) (2513)
- 8.30pm *Brookside* Will baby Coriell prove too much of a temptation for Susanah? Is Danny's friendship with Tinkah getting out of hand? (1) (4548)



Rachel and Ross on the rocks? (9pm)

- 9.00pm *Friends: The One with All the Jealousy* Ross overreacts when Rachel begins working with a handsome young man (1) (72638)
- 9.35pm *Cybil* True Confessions Cybil realises Cybil she has to play in her's a forage is based on Maryann (1) (432426)
- 10.00pm *Fraser* Niles lends Martin and Sherry his apartment for the night — but gets back early (1) (58971)
- 10.30pm *Jo Brand: Like it or Lump it* Stand-up and sketches (1) (835367)
- 11.05pm *King of the Hill* Adult animation (1) (332600)
- 11.35pm *TFI Friday* (1) (683762)
- 12.35am *The Way of the Dragon* (1973) Kung fu drama written, directed, produced by Bruce Lee and starring Bruce Lee (460136)
- 2.20pm *Robin Adult* animation (8463001)
- 2.30pm *Things to Come* (1936, b/w) H.G. Wells' vision of the future, starring Raymond Massey. Directed by William Cameron Menzies (1) (939223)
- 4.10pm *Lost for Words* A black comedy starring Peter Capaldi (1) (8474922) 5.10pm *Flo* (1) (833363)

CHANNEL 5

- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**
- Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 83 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 83 are: picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.22 MHz.
- 6.00am *5 News Early* (7204616)
- 7.30pm *USA High* (1) (5385797)
- 8.00pm *Havakaze* (3813659)
- 8.30pm *WideWorld* The impact of computers on business (8/15) (261260)
- 9.00pm *Espresso* (7746161) 10.00pm *Exclusive* (1) (827616)
- 10.30pm *Land of the Lion: After the Rains* (1) (4358744)
- 11.00pm *Lezza* (1364722) 11.50pm *Double Espresso* (8693368) 12.00pm *The Soul and the Beautiful* (1) (7873056) 12.30pm *Family Affairs* (1) (1) (8873616) 1.00pm *5 News* (85947838) 1.05pm *Sunrise Beach* (1) (8549890) 2.00pm *5's Company* (8510451)
- 3.30pm *Take Home* (1990), starring Linda Evans and Tom Skerritt. A comedy about a television weathergirl who is persuaded by her bosses to judge a "Romantic Man" contest. Directed by Piers Haggard (8600567)
- 5.20pm *5's Company: Late Extra* (11181277)
- 5.30pm *Move on Up* (1) (9089093)
- 6.00pm *100 Per Cent* (9086080)
- 6.30pm *Family Affairs* (1) (8087258)
- 7.00pm *Name That Tune* Music quiz, presented by Jock Hollander (8086529)
- 7.30pm *Exclusive* (9083242)
- 8.00pm *Attractions* Leisure time advice, introduced by Sally Mean from Newcastle (8078277)
- 8.30pm *5 News* (1) (864884)
- 9.00pm *The Lady Forgets* (1989) with Donna Mills and Greg Evigan. A mystery thriller directed by Bradford May (96444567)
- 10.50pm *La Femme Nikita* Action adventure series (2495529)
- 11.45pm *Gift on a Motorcycle* (1988) starring Margarete Feilich and Alan Deddon. An erotic tale of a newlywed, already fired of her boring schoolmaster husband, who decides to go to join her former lover. Jack Cardiff directs (3102971)
- 1.25am *Johnnie Mae Gibbons: FBI* (1986) with Lynn Whitfield. A drama about a policewoman who is chosen for a top secret assignment involving the infiltration of a gun-running operation. Directed by Bill Duke (7628049)
- 3.10pm *Tomorrow We Live* (1942, b/w) with John Clements. Propaganda drama about a British agent in occupied France. Directed by George King (9027100)
- 4.40pm *Burke's Law* Detective series (5991579)
- 5.30pm *100 Per Cent* (1) (7638198)



Out and about with Sally (8.00pm)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

- For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see *Video*, published on Saturday SKY 1
- 6.00am *Morning Glory* (40438) 6.00pm *Rage and Kathie Lee* (15880) 10.00pm *Another World* (96271) 11.00pm *Days of Our Lives* (15880) 12.00pm *Oprah Winfrey* (61153) 1.00pm *Genie* (44703) 2.00pm *Sally Jessy Raphael* (47720) 3.00pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 4.00pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 5.00pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 6.00pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 7.00pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 8.00pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 9.00pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 10.00pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 11.00pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 12.00pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 1.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 2.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 3.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 4.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 5.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 6.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 7.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 8.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 9.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 10.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 11.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 12.00pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 1.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 2.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 3.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 4.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 5.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 6.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 7.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 8.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 9.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 10.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 11.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 12.00pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 1.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 2.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 3.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 4.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 5.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 6.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 7.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 8.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 9.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 10.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 11.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 12.00pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 1.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 2.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 3.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 4.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 5.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 6.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 7.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 8.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 9.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 10.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 11.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 12.00pm *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 1.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 2.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 3.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 4.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 5.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 6.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 7.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991) 8.00am *Star Trek: Voyager* (83991

